

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE

IT'S KIWIS vs AUSTRALIA



Shaun Murphy of Australia heads the ball as Claudio Cacapa of Brazil looks on during their Confederations Cup match for third and fourth at Ulsan's World Cup stadium, South Korea.

World Cup Showdown

New Zealand practically sealed the winners' spot in the Oceania Group 2 World Cup qualifying series yesterday when they pummeled hapless Solomon Islands 5-1.

The Islanders, who were expected to offer the stiffest opposition to the Kiwis, crumpled like a pack of cards.

The outcome means New Zealand are odds-on to tackle Australia in the Oceania play-off series billed for June 20 and 24, in Auckland and Sydney.

The Solomons had scored more goals than the Kiwis against weaker nations in their opening Oceania Group 2 matches but their challenge wilted against the more-experienced All Whites team.

New Zealand are now almost certain to win Group B and advance to the home and away play-off series with Group 1 winner Australia, who are fresh from famous victories over world champions France and South American powerhouse, Brazil.

After struggling to a 2-0 win over a stubborn Cook Island side on Saturday, New Zealand coach Ken Dugdale made one change to his first team for this vital match against the Solomons.

New Zealand eventually opened scoring

in the 27th minute, though controversially through midfielder Simon Elliott. Solomon Island 'keeper Severino Aefi managed to keep the ball back out, but the linesman ruled the ball had crossed the line, much to the anger of the Solomons players, who protested vehemently for the goal to be disallowed.

Eight minutes later New Zealand doubled their advantage. An Elliott free kick on the edge the Solomons box was headed down by Ryan Nelsen, and Chris Jackson was on hand to force the ball South Melbourne's Vaughan Coveny scored his second goal five minutes into the second half, powering home a pin-point cross.

Jackson scored again in the 56th minute and second half substitute Paul Urlovic scored New Zealand's fifth, rewarding excellent lead up work by Mark Atkinson.

The Solomons finally pressed forward and Kingz striker Batram Suri pounced on a weak Jackson back-header on to shoot past New Zealand 'keeper Ross Nicholson.

New Zealand face will now unheralded Vanuatu on Wednesday in their final match in this tournament, knowing a draw would see them through to play Australia on June 20 and 24.



ABSW hits Malaysia



Olympic's Youth team coach, Michael Urukalo with the General manager of Kuala Lumpur's plush Concorde Hotel, Mr Gary Lee. The Concorde Hotel was used by the Olympic Youth team as their base whilst in Malaysia. (see full reports on Pages 6 and 7).

THE BEST READING THE BEST



Brazilian Soccer legend, Pele catching up the latest in Australian and world soccer with a copy of the ABSW. Turn to Page 13 for a Special Report on his visit to Sydney, last week.

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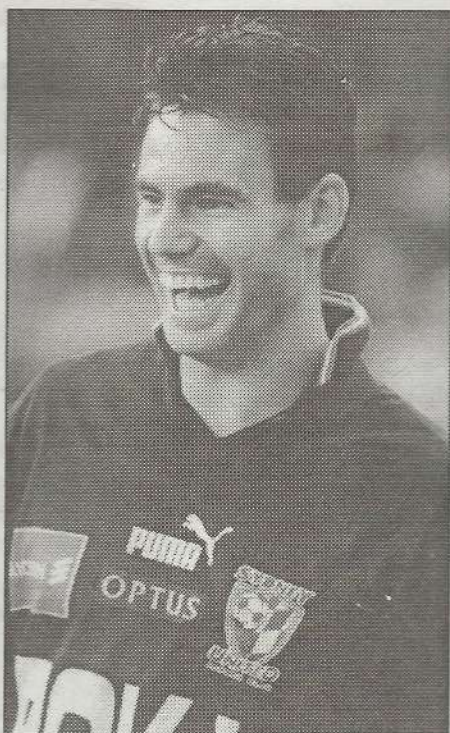
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Ante Milicic returns to Sydney Utd



Ante Milicic: Looks ahead to second stint at Sydney Utd.

After four seasons playing in Europe, former Sydney United junior and ex-International, 27 year old striker Ante Milicic has returned to Edensor Park. Milicic has signed with Sydney United for two seasons.

The last game Milicic played for Sydney United was the 1997 Grand Final when Sydney United lost 0-2 to the Brisbane Strikers. That 1996/97 team is widely regarded as the best ever Australian club side, having

won the Minor Premiership by a record margin and scoring a record number of goals in a season.

Milicic was the second highest goalscorer in the league that season only his striking partner David Zdrilic, bagged more.

Milicic, an ex-Youth international, who played a starring role in Australia's fourth placing in the 1993 World Youth Championships, spent two

season in Holland upon leaving Sydney United. The first season he played with NAC Breda.

When his second Dutch club SC Heerenveen was relegated at the end of the 1999 season, Milicic moved onto the Croatian League where he played with Croatian Premier Division Team, Rijeka.

Milicic has remained in fine goal scoring touch having scored a hat trick to help

Rijeka avoid relegation just three weeks ago. He scored 12 goals in total in this season that ended a fortnight ago.

He is the first big new signing for the club. He joins players who have signed on again such as Ante Deur, Elvis Olic, Nahuel Arrarte and Commis Meñapi (who is currently captaining the Solomon Islands in the Oceania Qualifiers and scored a hat trick in their first match and is likely to partner Milicic in attack next season).



U/20 SOCCEROOS CRUSH CANADA IN W-CUP TUNE-UP TOURNAMENT

The U/20 Socceroos defeated Canada 3-0 in the opening match of the Under 20 International Tournament in Santiago, Chile last week.

Striker Kevo Guleserian opened the scoring for the Australians, his header coming in the 37th minute.

Nottingham Forest defender Gareth Edds made it 2-0 just after the break, when he connected with a Scott McDonald through ball.

The Australians secured the win in the dying minutes, when Joshua Kennedy made it 3-0 with a minute to go.

"I am very happy with the performance of the boys, in particular Wayne Srhoj and Gareth Edds in the midfield, and Josh Kennedy up front," said coach Ange Postecoglou from Santiago.

"Canada are a well-prepared side, but we did very well against them and I think the game was the best we have

played since we've been together.

"The longer we spend together, the more prepared we'll feel for the World Youth Championships in Argentina.

In the final game however on Friday night, The Socceroos drew 1-1 with Egypt, in the final match of the Under 20 International Tournament in Santiago, Chile.

The Egyptians went up one-nil after almost half an hour, when they were given controversial penalty, and did

well to get it past Australian goalkeeper Michael Turnbull.

Just before the break, a Gareth Edds corner was neatly converted by Adrian Madaschi, who climbed above the Egyptian defenders to head home the equaliser.

The Young Socceroos were taken to a penalty shoot-out directly after full-time, to determine the Champion of the tournament, the Egyptians taking the series 5-4.



Kevo Guleserian: Opened the floodgates.

CANBERRA SPEARHEAD CONFIDENCE VOTE AGAINST SOCCER AUSTRALIA

By Graham Cooke



Doszpot, announcing the decision to vote against the SA board, during the Kanga Cup launch last week.

Soccer Canberra will lead a revolt against the board of Soccer Australia by calling for a special general meeting at which a motion of no confidence against the code's governing body will be moved.

The unanimous decision was made at a meeting of ACT and region clubs hours after SA announced it was dropping the Canberra Cosmos and Brisbane Strikers from the National Soccer League.

And within 24 hours the rebels gained a powerful ally when the chairman of the NSL executive and former Cosmos chairman, Ian Knop,

likened the SA board to Pontius Pilate with the blood of Canberra and Brisbane on their hands.

The news dominated proceedings at the long scheduled launch of the Kanga Cup junior competition at Bruce Stadium last week, with local and Federal politicians taking the opportunity to condemn the Cosmos expulsion.

Knop said it was wrong for SA to hand the decision-making to an independent body and then say they had nothing to do with it. "The blood of Canberra and Brisbane is all over the board and review committee's hands," he said.

"No matter what spin they want to put on it, it's a flawed decision-making process.

"It's probably reflective of why we have a real problem in this country with soccer not being embraced."

Announcing the decision to seek a vote of no confidence, the president of Soccer Canberra, Steve Doszpot, described SA press statements justifying the expulsion as "inane propaganda".

"Over the past few months I have been searching for someone on the board of Soccer Australia who would explain to me the rationale behind a 12-team competition as opposed to a 14-team or even a 16-team competition," he said. "It has hardly rated a mention, but the participants themselves, the NSL clubs, passed a motion nominating that a 14-team competition be implemented for next season."

Meanwhile the Cosmos themselves will take the legal road, planning to challenge the process by which the decision to expel the club was taken.

Chairman Danny Moulis said the first step would be to initiate action to obtain SA documents. "There has been a lack of information, misleading statements, poor communication and inconsistency of treatment during the review process," he said.

Asked if he thought he could possibly win the battle, Moulis said: "If you have any faith in the human spirit, this decision cannot possibly stand."

CENGIC LEADS EAST TIMORESE TO KANGA CUP



Ivan Cengic (back row, centre) and the East Timor Under 17 team which won gold at the Arafura Games in Darwin.

By Graham Cooke

An under-14 boys team from East Timor will compete in next month's Kanga Cup junior tournament, Soccer Canberra chief executive officer Alan Lee told guests at the launch of the competition last week.

The team's appearance is a triumph for the perseverance of the country's national coach, Ivan Cengic, and the generosity of the Australian armed forces and various groups in Canberra.

When contacted last week, Cengic, the former coach of O'Connor Knights in the ACT, said the team had absolutely no resources of its own.

"Soccer Canberra have agreed to waive registration fees and [ACT Premiership club] Canberra Deakin have told me they will look after the cost of food, drink and accommodation for the boys," he said.

The final piece fell into place when the Australian Army agreed to arrange transport between Dili and Canberra.

Cengic, who played first division foot-

ball in what is now Croatia in the 1970s and 80s, said East Timor had no national competition and only the most rudimentary of facilities. "Everyone is a volunteer — including me," he said.

But he had been delighted to help and was overjoyed when the East Timor under-17 team had won the gold medal in the Arafura Cup competition in Darwin.

"We are all hoping it is the beginning of a long run of success/everyone loves Soccer up here," he said.

FARINA NOT IMPRESSED WITH SOCCEROOS' BRONZE

Despite the Socceroos' heart-warming Confederations' Cup bronze medal, coach Frank Farina is convinced that only qualification for the 2002 World Cup can be described as an achievement for the team.

He is therefore telling his players that nothing else matters if they do not qualify for the Finals in Korea and Japan, next year.

Upon his arrival in Sydney yesterday after the Confederations Cup campaign, with members of the bronze medal winning team, Farina said that it might be difficult for the team to come back to earth after beating the two top ranked teams in the world.

"It can be but I've been drumming into the players over the last week, even after the wins against France and Mexico, that our

focus is really on the World Cup and the World Cup qualifiers.

"As much as it was a wonderful adventure, the priority

has always been the World Cup qualifiers. So if anyone loses sight then I'll quickly be reminding them what the focus is.

"I think everyone will be focused and ready for this (the World Cup qualifiers)."

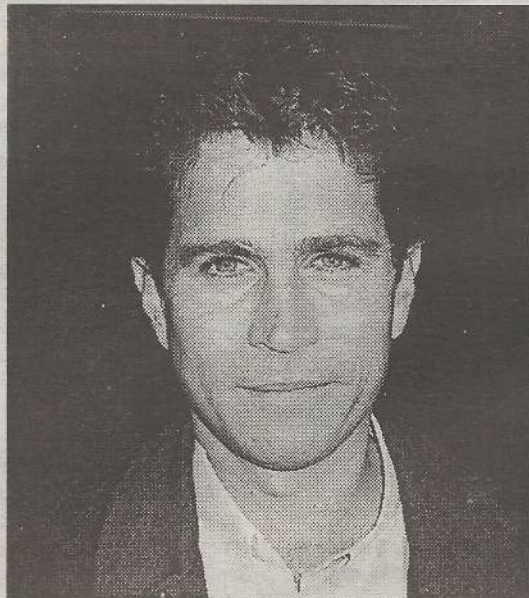
Farina is expected to name his squad for the

Oceania play-off within the next couple of days and players that took part in the Confederations Cup have the advantage of being mentally

and physically prepared," said Farina.

"Everyone that was in Korea and Japan fits into that category. For players

who have had three to four weeks off it will be difficult but that's something I will assess."



Frank Farina: Thinking ahead to World Cup qualification.

Selangor lifts Malaysian F.A. Cup Final

By John Economos

SELANGOR, the former team of South Melbourne's international defender Mehmet Durakovic, last Sunday night took out the prestigious Malaysian F.A. Cup Final played in Kuala Lumpur where they defeated Sarawak, the former club side that was

coached for eight straight years by Alan Vest.

Michael Urukalo, Sydney Olympic's Youth team coach who over the past 10 days was also in Kuala Lumpur with his squad on a historic Malaysian Tour, remained behind to watch last Sunday's Cup Final.

From Kuala Lumpur, Urukalo reported to ABSW last night: "Selangor won the Cup Final 1-0 with a 'Golden Goal'

in the second period of extra time.

"The Cup Final was played at the Bukit Jalil, a magnificent Stadium built for the Commonwealth Games.

"In fact in my opinion, it is even better than the grand Shah Alam Stadium, Selangor's home ground," commented Urukalo.

The Olympic Youth team coach was an official guest of F.A.M. (F.A. of Malaysia), for the Cup Final.

F.A.M. know Urukalo very well from his coaching days back in 1991-2 with Johor F.A. where he won the 'double', (Cup as well as the League Championship).

Urukalo went on to elaborate: "Selangor had dominated the game totally having some 90% possession. But they struggled to break down the very well disciplined and organised Sarawak.

"Having said this though, Sarawak in fact did have the better of the chances during the normal period. It was a torrid battle between the youth of Selangor against the experience and guile of Sarawak with Youth finally winning out.

"The 'Golden Goal' was scored by Selangor's central

defender, D. Surendran in the fourth minute of the second period of extra time. It was scored from a set piece that ended with a header to the back post."

"Surendran, a 19 year old, is very similar in style to Olympic's Youth captain and competitive central defender, Andrew Durante.

"The crowd of 50,000 was a sea of yellow and red, Selangor's colours that created a tremendous atmosphere," ended Urukalo.

Meanwhile Urukalo yesterday, (Monday), was invited by the Kuala Lumpur team of the Malaysian National League, to take them for a training session last night, (Monday). The Malay Mail side from the Second Division want Urukalo to train them today.

Both Malaysian club sides were left most impressed by Urukalo's recent tour of Malaysia with his Olympic Youth team.

Olympic Youth first defeated Malay Mail's senior side 2-3 and then staged a dramatic comeback to hold Kuala Lumpur 1-1 last Friday night in K.L.



Sydney Olympic's Youth team manager, Chris Bouzanis with coach Michael Urukalo in Kuala Lumpur last Sunday.

Cosmos gets support from Melbourne

South Melbourne President George Vasilopoulos has come out in support of the Canberra Cosmos being a part of next seasons revamped National Soccer League competition.

Vasilopoulos, who strongly believes that the nations capital city is vital within a National competition, admits he was surprised at Soccer Australia's decision to expel the Cosmos.

"South Melbourne

Soccer Club is disappointed with the decision by the Board of Soccer Australia to exclude Canberra Cosmos from the National Soccer League," said Vasilopoulos.

"South Melbourne calls on the Board to include Canberra as a strategic location for the development of Australian soccer."

"Our club does not feel it is in the best interests of the game to exclude a strong soccer

centre like Canberra from the league - they have one of the best stadiums in the country, and have shown themselves this year to be competitive on the field with most of the teams in the league."

All The NSL Award Winners

NSL 2001 WINNERS & VOTES RECEIVED

PLAYERS PLAYER OF THE YEAR - 'WARREN MEDAL'
SCOTT CHIPPERFIELD - WOLLONGONG WOLVES 156
BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI - PERTH GLORY 142
DAMIAN MORI - PERTH GLORY 133
CON BOUTSIANIS - SOUTH MELBOURNE 71
ARCHIE THOMPSON - MARCONI STALLIONS 63

U/21 PLAYER OF THE YEAR - 'PAPASAVAS MEDAL'

BEN BURGESS - NORTHERN SPIRIT 226
LJUBO MILICEVIC - PERTH GLORY 215
GREG OWENS - SYDNEY OLYMPIC 137

COACH OF THE YEAR

MICHAEL PETERSEN - SOUTH MELBOURNE 31
RON CORRY - WOLLONGONG WOLVES 20
BRANKO CULINA - SYDNEY OLYMPIC 17

GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR

MICHAEL PETKOVIC - SOUTH MELBOURNE 353
CLINT BOLTON - SYDNEY OLYMPIC 259
JASON PETKOVIC - PERTH GLORY 243

TOP GOALSCORER OF THE YEAR

DAMIAN MORI - PERTH GLORY 19 GOALS

NORTHERN DIVISION PLAYER OF THE YEAR

MATTHEW MCKAY - AIS/QAS 35
ANTHONY DOUMANIS - SYDNEY OLYMPIC 29
ADAM HUGHES - NEWCASTLE UNITED 25

SOUTHERN DIVISION PLAYER OF THE YEAR

MASSIMO MURDOCCA - SOUTH MELBOURNE 37
DANIEL ROCCO - VIS 25
MILAN SAKJIC - FAWKNER BLUES 25

FAIR PLAY AWARD

KINGZ FC

PREMIERS

SOUTH MELBOURNE

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

SIMON MICALLEF - NSW
EDDIE LENNIE - WA
MARK SHIELD - QLD

ASSISTANT REFEREE OF THE YEAR

JOHN BOWDLER - NSW
JOHN PEACOCK - QLD

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Club President

David (Dervis) Futbolcu

(02) 9703 8810

Mobile: 0425 268 810

Honours for Murdocca, McKay

Youth League Profile

By Mark Stavroulakis

It was Australian soccer's night of nights last Saturday at Star City Casino, where the annual National League awards was being held.

Amongst the big winners being Mickey Petersen, Scott Chipperfield and various other winners, it was also a chance to see who would evolve as Youth stars for the future.

The Northern Conference was the first youth award to be announced. The Nominees were Anthony Doumanis from Sydney Olympic, Adam Hughes from the Newcastle United

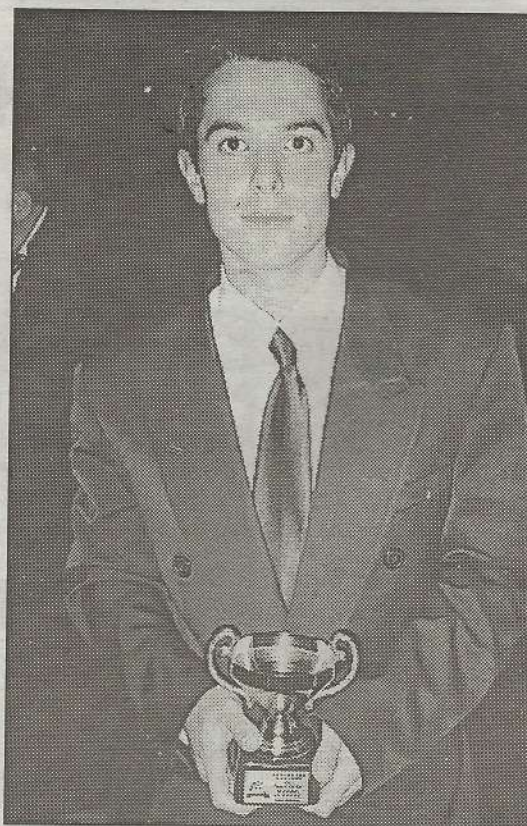
side, and lastly Matthew McKay from the AIS. It was a tight contest but Matthew McKay was rewarded with a fine season at the AIS, scooping this year's Northern Conference youth award.

An ecstatic McKay was lost for words after he received his award.

"At first I was really happy being nominated in such a prestigious award. Previous winners like Mark Viduka and many other Australians playing overseas made it that much monumental for myself. When my name was announced I couldn't believe it, I'm really stoked," said the young 18-year-old.

Having started his scholarship at the AIS since last November, young McKay's presence in the midfield was a top inclusion to the squad. "The AIS has really helped me perform better as a player and with top coaching and quality facilities, it makes it that much better than anywhere else," said the AIS star. Young Matthew's scholarship at the AIS runs out at the end of this year, and at the moment many National League clubs are after this young man's signature.

"I'm originally from Brisbane and before my move to the AIS, I was at the QAS where I first broke into National Youth League football. My dream was to play for the Strikers, but now with them omitted from the National League, I'd like to



Massimo Murdocca: Displaying the NYL Southern Division Best Player Trophy last Saturday night.

play in Sydney," said the former QAS graduate.

The Southern Conference

Player of the year was to be the final youth award of the night. The contenders for this

award were Milan Sajkic from the Fawkner Blues, Daniel Rocco from the VIS and Australian Under 17 Joey, Massimo Murdocca from South Melbourne. The award was taken out by young Massimo Murdocca who starred in not only South Melbourne's youth squad, but was one of the lucky youngsters to have qualified for the U17 World Cup in Trinidad & Tobago. "It was great winning this award as throughout the year I really worked hard in achieving certain goals.

I thought I deserved something after such a tough but good year for myself. When they announced my name I was so relieved as all the tension I had before the awards was over," said the speed star.

After spending a good first season with South Melbourne young Massimo's focus is now on the up and coming U17 World Cup in September. "I was disappointed that we didn't make the Grand-Finals with South Melbourne, but once we re-

group for next year, we should be an even better squad. Right now I'm focusing on the Joeys selection in late July. I hope to make the final cut and travel to Trinidad & Tobago for the World Cup," said the 16-year-old.

Young Murdocca's contract is up at the end of June with South Melbourne, but the young star wants to go on with the Blues.

"I really enjoy playing for South Melbourne, they have been really good to me. I'd like to stay one or two more seasons with South Melbourne, and then hopefully if I'm one hundred percent ready, I'll travel overseas, said the young right-sided midfielder.

These two stars and so many more youngsters currently playing in the National Youth Leagues across Australia are the stars that will lead this country into new horizons in the near future. For young McKay and Murdocca, this could be the start of something big for these promising young guns.

SOCCER WOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

COOPER TO COACH IN NEW YORK

Matildas midfielder/defender Sarah Cooper is off to America next week after securing an exciting position as Graduate Assistant Coach at Long Island University in New York.

The opportunity is two-fold. The 31-year-old able to further her tertiary education, whilst gaining a valuable kickstart in a coaching career. Cooper will undertake a Masters in Computer Science over the two years and receives a stipend and accommodation, for which she in return takes on the role of Graduate Assistant Coach to the women's soccer program twenty hours per week.

By the end of her stay, Cooper will have a clearer picture which career path she would like to pursue. "By that time, I will have learnt the NCAA system, and will be able to make a decision whether I want to get an Assistant Coach position or maybe a Head Coach position at a small college, or whether to go into computers," Cooper explained.

"It's great," she added. "I'm certainly excited about it and can't wait to get started. It's a great place to start. They're really keen and committed and have good resources, and it's not at the pressure end like in international soccer."

With Long Island a NCAA Division One team, Cooper is looking forward to gaining an inside experience of the college system, travelling, and seeing a wide range of teams and styles of play.

Cooper says for now she will remain available to play for Australia, but is also aware she is probably approaching the later stages of her international career out on the pitch. "Like anyone, I'd like to play as long as I can, but realistically I doubt if I'd be there much more anyway.

I'll certainly still be available, but really I'm not likely to be there in three or four years time. I'm not retiring just yet, but soon I'll proba-



Sarah Cooper: Exciting prospects awaits her in the US.

ble be forced into it, through lack of time. If this makes it impossible, then that's the way it goes, but I still want to play somewhere - I won't be giving up playing."

Cooper won't have the opportunity to play this (northern) summer, as the first item on her agenda upon arrival is a seven-week sojourn on a junior coaching camp. The following summer, which falls outside her commitments for the college season, Cooper hopes to play for the New York team in the W1 League.

Although in NCAA Division One, Long Island University has barely had a chance to build itself as one of the big name outfits, the women's soccer program only about four or five years old. But Cooper feels she is entering LIU at an exciting time, and is looking forward to working with young Head Coach Tracey Bartholomew, who first coached there last season.

"Last year Tracey came, late

(before the start of the season) and had no say in what players she had. So really this is her first year with her players. We want to be the strongest in the Conference, play the eliminations, then on to the playoffs. Over the two years, I hope I can add something, to being competitive in the playoffs. It's exciting really - we're almost starting from scratch."

Cooper is glad to have secured a position in America, which as an overseas applicant, has proved more than a challenge.

Cooper had originally started her search for a coaching role applying for Assistant Coach positions. It was the University of Oregon (to whom she had applied for such a job) who suggested she try for a Graduate Assistant vacancy which wouldn't start until August, therefore overcoming the time and work visa problems.

Once armed with this knowledge, Cooper says it all happened by fluke. "I thought I'd phone around the

areas where I'd like to be. I phoned LIU, and it happens they had talked about taking on a Graduate Assistant just the week before, and they were keen."

Cooper, after having busily arranged her student visa (which in itself is a long drawn out process), feels this to be just as good a solution. "In the end, I'm probably just as well off. I don't need to worry about accommodation or food expenses and I also receive the stipend. There are rules for my position that I'm not allowed to recruit, so I can coach at the weekends. At the same time, I'm doing my Masters, so in a way it's better than going straight in as an Assistant Coach - I'll have two careers at the end."

The former Australian captain certainly has the background to move into coaching. Her ten year international career as a player includes competing at two World Cups, and twice member of the World Stars Team which played against the US in promotional indoor tours across America.

The scholarship also comprised undertaking the Diploma in Sports Coaching, and provided the opportunity for further professional development.

For this, Cooper stayed on after the Matildas' European Tour, and visited Manchester United, Liverpool, and Club Brugge.

"It was a really good experience for a year. It's a good head start. But obviously I'm going there as a novice, I'm going there to learn."

Her experience as a high school teacher in PE and mathematics also stands her in good stead, along with her former position as Development Officer for the Northern Territory Soccer Federation.

Cooper, who hails from Darwin, leaves for the US on 20 June, first coaching at a Coerver camp in New York before settling in to her new challenge in August.



Kelly Golebiowski (right)

Golebiowski is Player of the Week

Matildas and Hampton Roads Piranhas striker Kelly Golebiowski has been named W-1 League Player of the Week after her two-goal performance last week against Tampa Bay Extreme.

Golebiowski's 9th and 23rd minute strikes set the Piranhas on course towards a solid 3-1 victory at

home. The Aussie stood up to the challenge for the Piranhas, who were without four players for the clash including US National Team forward Christie Welsh.

After four matches this season, the Piranhas sit in second place in the Eastern Conference with three wins and a loss.

MOORE'S DOUBLE HONOUR IN ENGLAND

Former Matildas striker Kristy Moore last week took out both awards for the English FA Premier League South Division - Players' Player of the Year and Top Goalscorer.

The South Australian, age 24, has enjoyed a memorable season for Barnet FC and received her just rewards at the FA Women's Football Awards Ceremony held at the Savoy Hotel in London.

Moore appeared in all 32 of Barnet's League and Cup matches this season, scoring a total of 41 goals. Her tally of 23 goals in the 22 League matches included two hatricks, in addition to her four Cup hatricks.

Moore was spotted in Adelaide and flown to England to join the 'Bees' mid-season in November 1999. She made an instant impact, scoring 9 goals in ten League games, and has since been selected for representative football for Middlesex County.

Goalkeeper and fellow South Aussie Lynn White also joined Barnet late last year.

After constant postponements due to wet weather, they finished the season playing a gruelling three games a week. Barnet finished up 4th in the South Division after a very promising start, and therefore missed promotion to the Premier League National Division.



Bobby Despotovski: A topsy-turvy season ends with recognition as Perth Glory's most glorious player award over the weekend.

EASTERN PRIDE TO LOSE GROUND

By Bert van Bedaf

Eastern Pride not only has lost its place in the National Soccer League, the regional Victorian club stands to lose its home at Mobil Park, if debts to the council aren't paid by Wednesday.

The strapped-for-cash club, which was unable to pay its coach, players and NSL affiliation fees late last season and was axed from the league, is now on its last luck to salvage its home in Morwell.

club until Wednesday, 5pm, to meet the debt or the council will be entitled to take possession of the property.

"We have told the club unless the debt is paid out we would issue a warrant to take possession of the property," A LaTrobe City council senior officer told the local newspaper.

Club officials, under siege for most of last season, were still trying to rescue the club from ruin.

"There's still hope (the club can come up with the funds), but it hasn't hap-

• **Dean Fak (below): Eastern Pride's captain during the 2000/01 National Soccer League season. Doubts surrounds his fate following the financial difficulties being faced by the club.**



The Supreme Court in Victoria has awarded LaTrobe City Council Pride's premises at Mobil Park, including the social club, to settle an outstanding debt, estimated at \$330,000, as reported in the LaTrobe Valley Express.

The court has given the

pened as yet," Eastern Pride director John Buhugair said.

"We're hopeful. We haven't stopped pursuing finance, but if the day comes the council has to take it, so be it," he said.

DESPOTOVSKI'S SEASON ENDS ON HIGH NOTE

By Richard Kreider

It was certainly a season Bobby Despotovski was keen to forget after being fined for making a suggestive three-finger gesture and being attacked in the first leg of the elimination final at the Melbourne Knights Somers Street on top of his side's ultimate elimination by the same club.

But last Friday's Perth Glory Most-Glorious-Player function at the city's Hyatt Regency Hotel, provided the talented player with a cheerful and glittering finale by receiving the clubs most-prestigious, fairest and best award.

Despotovski, who turns 30 next month, won the award on 70 points, nine ahead of dynamic defender Jamie Harnwell with co-forward Damian Mori a further point behind.

Three individual judges gave 3-2-1 votes to their best three-players for each of the home and away games, barring the cancelled Carlton fixtures.

Surprisingly, Despotovski top voted in only three of the 28 games, of which two were gained jointly with his front-line partner Mori; which would clearly demonstrate he was a consistent performer through the entire season.

The Subiaco-born of Serbian heritage striker becomes the third consecutive West Australian to accept the trophy after Gareth Naven won the imposing trophy last season and Scott Miller jointly with defender Danny Hay in



Damian Mori: Finished third behind Despotovski. 1998/99.

Goalkeeper Jason Petkovic, who is still to receive confirmation of a transfer to German club Cottbus, won the Quit Coaches award from Bernd Stange and Mich d'Avray and skipper Naven collected the Sony Clubman award.

Despotovski and Mori proved a successful combination by creating havoc in many a defence. This was acknowledged when they finished second and third respectively behind Wolves' Socceroo striker Scott Chipperfield in Soccer Australia's Warren medal (best player) award last Saturday night.



Jamie Harnwell: Runner-up to Despotovski.

PERTH GLORY MGP AWARD (Top Ten)

Bobby Despotovski(70)
Jamie Harnwell(61)
Damian Mori(60)
Gareth Naven(57)
Jason Petkovic(53)
Edgar Junior(50)
Gary Faria(42)
Kasey Wehrman(25)
Scott Miller(23)
Ljubo Milicevic(22)

Petkovic finished third for the NSL goalkeeper of the year, behind his brother Michael and second-placed Clint Bolton.

Sweeper Ljubo Milicevic finished runner-up to Northern Spirit's Ben Burgess in the under-21 Award.

Meanwhile, it is believed Perth Glory chairman will shortly be making an announcement about the appointment of a new coach. Current assistant coach to Bernd Stange, Mich D'Avray, is believed to be the primary contender. Stange's contract officially expires at the end of June.

SOUTHS REGRET PETERSEN'S DEPARTURE

The South Melbourne Soccer Club is disappointed by the decision of Minor Premiership winning-coach, Mike Petersen, has dismissed a two-year agreement with the club to sign a deal with the Football Kingz.

South Melbourne President Mr. George Vasilopoulos, who was in Sydney over the weekend for a Soccer Australia Policy Review Meeting, admits he is extremely disappointed at Petersen's decision, especially as South Melbourne provided him with his

break into the NSL coaching ranks.

"I'm particularly disappointed at the actions of the Football Kingz who were well aware of the two-year agreement between the club and Mike Petersen," said Vasilopoulos in Sydney over the weekend.

"The ongoing conjecture over the past month was obviously not an ideal preparation for the team's assault on the finals series".

The clubs Board of Management will meet for its regular meeting on Tuesday to discuss this matter further.



Sydney Olympic Youth On Tour Of Malaysia

'Olympic Youth Team Battles Back From Brink Of Defeat'

By John Economos
(From Kuala Lumpur)

Sydney Olympic's Youth team in its second match of its 10 day tour of Malaysia last Wednesday night, had to valiantly battle for their lives to come back from the brink of defeat and ultimately defeat the tough and mobile 'Malay Mail' side, 2-3 at the Bolasepak Kuala Lumpur Stadium.

This was easily the Olympic youngsters' most heroic battle to date as their Malaysian semi-pro opponents were far more matured, experienced and very technical.

Olympic had many stars but 19 year old strapping striker Morgan Cawley, yet again impressed by scoring the first goal and helping set up another.

However Olympic's diminutive dynamo, right wingback, Dimi Nicolaou, had a sensational all-action game in midfield to be 'Man Of The Match'.

But second half substitute and slender 16 year old striker, Laby

Haliti, bravely dived into action to score two goals which lifted Olympic out from the clutches of defeat and into victory.

Malay Mail had a very powerfully built 35 year old goalkeeper who kept the Malaysians in the game in a first session which the young Olympic side stormed the home side relentlessly with wave after wave of attacks.

A well-practised free kick move taken 20 metres out, saw Olympic's clever 'linkman' Zenon Caravella burst through to the byline. Caravella brilliantly belted a low rocket across the goal-mouth, but unfortunately no one was there to deflect it into the target.

Playing on a very heavily grassed and wet pitch of the Bolasepak Stadium which was built for the 1989 Asian Games that Malaysia hosted, the Olympic youngsters refused to be set back by the difficult conditions.

In the 19th minute Olympic fell behind against the run of play. A cross was lifted infield and an Olympic defender erroneously headed the ball into the path of a Malay striker who scored.



Morgan Cawley: Scores third goal on tour.

But sixty seconds later the athletic Cawley had 'balanced the books' for Olympic.

The computerized Caravella engineered the ball on the left to feed Cawley. The powerful Cawley failed to disappoint Caravella's good work and elegantly glided into the box to bury his shot in the target with his lethal left boot.

On the half hour mark, mobile left wingback Lee Miot, raided down his flank before lifting a high cross to the back post from where

Nicolaou exploded a low drive that flashed perilously close outside the left upright.

Seven minutes from the break 'Malay Mail' again regained the lead when Olympic's sweeper Stevie Biviano failed to control the greasy ball as it sliced off his boot and fell behind him. Malay's mid-fielder zipped in to nail the target from the edge of the box.

Tempers flared in the last minute of the first session as Caravella came head to head and chest to chest with a Malaysian defender. Players raced in from all directions to pull apart the feuding pair.

Holes began to appear in Olympic's midfield early in the second session, allowing the mobile Malaysians precious space. Two minutes after the break a rocketing drive was blasted at Olympic's target, but 18 year old golden mid-air save to deny the Malaysians further joy.

Captain Andrew Durante, took over the sweeper's role in the second session as substitute Nick Vagenas slotted in as a second stopper alongside his powerful and uncompromising partner, Peter

Biviano.

Right on the 54th minute, Olympic's slender, but hugely courageous 16 year old substitute striker Haliti, raced into the box to head into the target a great Anthony Sarmonikas cross, fired in from the right flank. That goal locked up the scores at 2-2.

But the teenaged former refugee from Kosovo, was not content with just one goal. Haliti again exploded into action for his second and Olympic's match winning third, just three minutes later.

The stocky midfielder Nicolaou who was on fire in Olympic's 'engine room', (slashing and cutting into anything that moved), won possession and passed to Vagenas. Quickly Vagenas veered a long ball wide to the right to again find Sarmonikas steaming down towards the right flag.

The striker cracked into the box yet another magnificently measured ball that found the hungry young Haliti courageously bursting in, to volley a lifting screamer into the target that shocked and finally killed the Malaysians.

With just less than a minute left

of play and having won the last corner of the match, all the Malaysians pushed up into Olympic's box, now desperately seeking a face-saving equalizer.

Very late second half substitute goalie, Luke Panaccessio, bravely raced off his line to climb high and well over the top of three players blocking him, to heavily punch the ball right out of his penalty area and into safety to cement Olympic's victory.

This was Olympic's best performance to date of their Malaysian tour, a match battled by the Sydney teenagers that left them all covered in glory, but simultaneously totally drained after the game.

Olympic Youth: Moss (Panecasio 85th), Peter Biviano (Bandouvakis 83rd), Stevie Biviano (Haliti 46th), Durante, Nicolaou, Pizanis (Vagenas 46th), Miot, Tirovski (Moustakas 72nd), Caravella (Skanavis 46th), Sarmonikas, Cawley.

Scorers: Malay Mail 2 (19th and 38th). Olympic Youth 3 (Cawley 20th, Haliti 54th and 57th).

Part 1 — "Short Shots From Malaysia"

By John Economos
(from Kuala Lumpur)

SINCE arriving in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, late penultimate Thursday evening, the Sydney Olympic Youth players, (most of whom have never travelled overseas prior), have been totally amazed by this wonderful country.

Not to mention the magnificent Five Star plush Hotel Concorde that they have made as their base whilst in Malaysia.

The Concorde Hotel is situated right smack bang in the very heated-heart of this congested, climatically tropical Asian City, that hosted the last Commonwealth Games.

Over the past six years, Kuala Lumpur has been vastly remodelled.

Massive construction has taken place over this period that's resulted in a multitude of towering buildings mushrooming up into the skyline. But even well after the Commonwealth Games, Kuala Lumpur today, still continues in building huge towering complexes.

Almost every block in the City today is dotted by enormous building sites in progress that soon will turn into many more plush hotels and office blocks.

Most refreshing however, is the fact that every project has a totally different architectural design.

Vastly different and vastly attractive structure lines that vividly avoids, for the eye, a monotonous landscape.

'Kuala Lumpur however does have a monumental problem that the City's town-planning engineers are desperately trying to solve.

The problem is not unique to any other major city on the planet.

In one word, it's 'traffic'. The traffic problem in Kuala Lumpur is absolutely horrendous.

Kuala Lumpur has a population of some 2.9 million.

But it seems that the City itself is engulfed and

almost totally choked by more than three million cars. Kuala Lumpur is paralysed almost round the clock by traffic.

Bumper-to-bumper traffic slowly snakes through the City, no less than 20 hours per day, seven days per week.

Buses are a rarity. Cabs are simply everywhere. Cab fare are extremely cheap in Malaysia.

A multitude of 'fly-overs' have been constructed in a never-ending battle to free up the traffic.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC'S Youth team which returned to Sydney early Monday morning, (6.30am), almost lost its coach Michael Urukalo and team manager Chris Bouzanis, late last week.

Late last Friday afternoon, Urukalo and Bouzanis were returning by taxi to the Concorde Hotel after having gone to watch another team train.

Their speeding taxi driver, seeing the lights were about to change to Red, suddenly accelerated through the intersection.

An oncoming, also speeding car, (they all speed in K.L.), decided to do exactly the very same 'trick'.

However Urukalo and Bouzanis' cabbie, also wanted to turn, across the intersection and right into the path of the other 'speeding bullet'.

The oncoming maniacal driver, stood on everything he had under him as all of his four tyres belled out black smoke as his vehicle came to a screeching halt, barely one foot from Urukalo's passenger door.

Both Australians walked back into the lobby of the

Concorde Hotel, visibly shaken, (but not stirred).

Whilst totally white-faced, the two headed straight to the Hotel's lounge and urgently gulped down a much needed shot of brandy.

ANDREW DURANTE, Sydney Olympic's captain and strapping stopper, was the team's first injury-casualty penultimate Friday afternoon, well before Olympic's first match against Malaysia's 'Armed Forces' was played.

The 19 year old skipper had bought a new pair of boots and wore them in a training session to break them in.

However in the blistering Malaysian heat, Durante's feet after half an hour, significantly swelled up and the new boots with friction, quickly inflicted severe blisters to both of Andrew's heels.

Coach Urukalo immediately stopped Durante from any further training that afternoon.

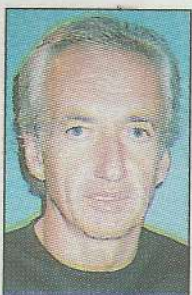
THE Olympic Youth squad was complimented on its behaviour during the flight Sydney to Kuala Lumpur last Thursday by the air-crew of Malaysian Airways.

Upon landing at K.L., the head of cabin crew went to coach Urukalo and expressed her grateful sentiments to him.

Apparently M.A.S. had recently had some problems with other sporting teams travelling out of Australia on their flights.



Andrew Durante: Olympic's Youth team captain stopped by blistered heels.



Michael Urukalo: Almost killed in Kuala Lumpur.

Sydney Olympic Youth On Tour Of Malaysia

Olympic's Youths hold shocked Kuala Lumpur

By John Economos
(From Kuala Lumpur)

In their third and final match in just seven days, Sydney Olympic's Youth team shocked the leading locals with a fighting 1-1 draw last Friday night against the full-time senior professionals, 'Kuala Lumpur', of the Malaysian National League played at the Bolasepak Stadium.

With two minutes left on the clock and the battling Olympic Youth still trailing by a goal, the lean and hungry second half substitute, George Pizanis latched onto a Malaysian clear-out to suddenly unleash an absolutely incredible, left footed 40 metre bomb that exploded into the top corner of the Malaysians' net to lock up the match.

Gallantly fighting off fatigue, not only in having played three matches in the very humid conditions, but did so, all within the space of just six days.

With two solid wins plus this most valuable draw against Kuala Lumpur, left Olympic undefeated on their tri-match Malaysian tour.

The draw was more than fully deserved. The Olympic team, (huge-ly inspired by midfield general and 'Man Of The Match' Zenon Caravella), had previously twice gone very close to scoring, plus were denied a blatant penalty eight minutes from time.

The glaringly denied penalty incident surfaced when mobile left wingback Lee Miot, after being released by Caravella, was shockingly scythed down from behind and well inside the Malaysians' box.



George Pizanis: Scored with a 40 metre screamer.

The most unfortunate thing about this battling spectacle, (a real Goliath vs David duel), was the fact that there was no one from Australia was present in Kuala Lumpur to witness this young Australian side battling for its life against the far more senior and experienced professional Malaysian players.

That common unyielding fighting spirit that exists in Australian sport, was most evident in this battle as midfield genius Caravella, (especially in the second half and against all odds), significantly inspired his entire team with his repeated, ripping raids deep into the Malaysians' half, almost immediately after the young Aussie side had fallen behind by a very early shock second half strike.

The first session ended scoreless despite Kuala Lumpur narrowly missed scoring in the 16th minute through a flashing header following a corner.

Four minutes later the fury of Kuala Lumpur's all round mobile attack, saw two Malaysian midfielders burst through into Olympic's box with one blasting over Glen Moss' horizontal.

horizontal.

In the 25th minute Olympic viciously stung back with two successive attacking raids that saw the team's 'baby', striker Labi Haliti blast on target shots that ultimately ricocheted.

The Malaysians in the latter part of the first session, were pulling Olympic's midfield apart with mobile attacks and constantly switched flank play. The characteristically delicate touches and repeated little flicks to one another by the Malaysians, had Olympic on the ropes.

Finally Kuala Lumpur drew first blood seconds after the match had restarted.

A speedy Malay wide player unexpectedly cracked a sizzling angled rocket from 20 metres from the right that zeroed into the far top corner.

Courageous Caravella in the 59th minute, latched onto a fine ball from his striker Morgan Cawley, but the dynamic midfielder's low drive was also well saved by the Malaysian custodian.



Zenon Caravella: Olympic's dynamic 'linkman'.

Seconds later Caravella engineered his right wingback Anthony Sarmonikas for a crack at the target. But his decent effort was also blocked out by the goalkeeper.

The Australians were now back on fire and on the front foot, determined to finish their tour undefeated. Even though it meant denying the K.L. professionals the understandably expected victory.

Coach Michael Urukalo seeing his little pony-tailed midfielder Dimi Nicolaou rapidly tiring, brought on in the 64th minute the late goal-hero George Pizanis who nailed the 'life-

saver' in the style of Liverpool's grand Gary McAllister.

Olympic by now was running hot, launching raid after raid that left the Malaysians fuddled and in the 78th minute Lee Miot squared a top ball to midfielder Sasha Tirovski who from the edge of the box let fly a screamer that left K.L.'s back-peddalling goalkeeper barely able to tip over his horizontal.

Despite Olympic's blatant denial of a penalty with eight minutes still left on the clock, the young Aussies clapped on the pressure in their relentless and aggressive quest in seeking justice through at least a well deserved equalizer.

With two minutes left, justice finally arrived, courtesy of Pizanis' 40 metre shattering bomb that locked up the scoreboard.

Olympic Youth line-up:

Moss (Panecasio 87th), Sarmonikas, Peter Biviano (Bandouvakis 85th), Stevie Biviano, Durante (capt), Miot (Moustakas 84th), Nicolaou (Pizanis 64th), Tirovski, Caravella, Cawley (Skanavis 76th), Haliti (Vagenas 53rd).

Scorer for Olympic George Pizanis 88m.

Part 2 — "Short Shots From Malaysia"

By John Economos
(from Kuala Lumpur)

LAST Wednesday a special pre-match Media Luncheon was arranged for the Olympic Youth team and the MalayMail side where the media met and mingled with both teams.

The gesture was a fine one where the two squads were treated to a huge feast. Players exchanged various gifts and mementos.



Dimi Nicolaou: Olympic's dynamic midfielder.

FORMER Melbourne Knights coach, Ken Worden is back in Malaysia coaching. Worden who initially coached Selangor in the early 90s, is now coach of Sabah the former club side of Scotty Ollerenshaw.

Sabah last week lost to Selangor in the semi-finals of the FA Cup.

Selangor went on to clash with Sarawak in the Cup Final played in Kuala Lumpur, last Sunday night in K.L.

Selangor won the Cup Final with a 'Golden Goal', 1-0.

LAST Thursday Sydney Olympic's Youth players were taken to the warehouses of Lotto, Umbro and Puma to buy sports-gear at the 'right price.'

Whilst the players were coming out of the Puma warehouse, they saw a little Malaysian trying to park his small Hyundai car up against the fence.

In the process of slowly driving his car forward, he dropped one of his front wheels right into a large, ungrated, Man-hole.

The driver frantically revved his car in reverse to get it out.

Being a front-wheel driven vehicle, the wheel kept spinning in mid-air, failing to make contact with the side concrete walling of the huge grate.

After having a little chuckle at the funny incident, four Olympic players rushed over to the perplexed driver and ordered him out of his car.

With a real fine 'team-effort' led by Olympic's powerful and stockily-built stopper, Peter Biviano, the Soccer Samaritans from Sydney, proceeded to lift right off the ground the whole car and gently place it three or four metres away from the Man-hole.

The Malaysian driver was left standing stunned.



Peter Biviano: Olympic's powerfully built Youth central marker.

LAST Thursday night in Kuala Lumpur, Olympic's Youth team almost lost another member of the squad.

Whilst former Gold coast goalie, Glen Moss tried to sprint across the hectically jammed traffic, a motor scooter screamed through the cars and clipped the powerful custodian across the top of his left thigh with its protruding handle bar, sending 'Mossy' flying backwards, but thankfully away from the swarming traffic.



Glen Moss: Almost killed by motor scooter in Kuala Lumpur.

Last week Olympic's coach Michael Urukalo and team manager Chris Bouzanis, were also involved in a near miss fatal traffic incident with their taxi as reported in our last edition of ABSW.

PETER SKANAVIS, Olympic's teenaged left

wingback, celebrated his 18th birthday in real fine style last Saturday night.

Coach Michael Urukalo organised a surprise Birthday dinner party plus a large chocolate cake for the entire Youth team at the 'Manja Restaurant' in Bangsar Barus, Malaysia.

The 'Manja' Restaurant is owned by former Perth-Athena player, Tasos Notaras who has known Urukalo for years.



Peter Skanavis: Turned 18 Saturday with a surprise gift.

The birthday cake fully decked out with 18 lit candles to boot, was delivered to the surprised and timid Birthday Boy Peter by a gorgeous Malaysian girl.

Like any good defender, peter showed exceptional maturity by quickly loosing sight of the approaching cake, but kept his eyes fully transfixed on the delicious female carrier.

The stunningly attractive petite Malaysian girl gracefully placed the cake in front of Peter.

She then gently snaked her loving long arms around his neck before slamming him with a warm kiss right on target, from close range.

Unfortunately for the now disheartened Peter, although the cake was great, the 'match' with the gorgeous girl failed to go into 'extra time' as the delicious dolly delicately drifted away having done her dutiful deeds.

THE very proud parents of the 'Olympic Youth' team, turned up yesterday morning (7am Monday) to proudly greet back to Australia their undefeated young team.

A very proud Olympic General Manager, Peter Raskopoulos, was also at Sydney's International

Airport early yesterday morning to welcome back his Club's very successful squad from their historic Malaysian tour.

THE Olympic Youth team's 'baby' squad member in Malaysia, was 16 year old



Labi Haliti: Olympic's 'baby' of the Youth squad in Malaysia.

very lean, but also a very brave striker, Labi Haliti.

Despite his very tender years, Labi came on at half-time as a substitute to score two goals within three minutes against the senior Malay Mail side of Kuala Lumpur.

In Olympic's last match last Friday night against Premier National League side Kuala Lumpur, Labi was most unfortunate not to have scored another two with rocketing shots that cannoned off two K.L. defenders.



Olympic's Youth squad about to depart for Australia last Sunday at the Concorde Hotel's lobby in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with three sisters, visiting K.L. from Penang.



Ivan Jolic (left) Melbourne Knights' striker.

Will the real Ivan stand up, pls!

Dear Sir,
In this photo (above) recently published in your fine magazine, Ivan Jolic of the Melbourne Knights appears to resemble the Gobble Doc, the chip pinching character from the Smiths chips ad on TV of a while back.

If this bloke rocks up to your party hide the chips or have plenty of 'em!

Oh well just my feeble attempt at trying to be funny but you must admit there's a close resemblance.

Andrew Wales,
Eden Hills, SA.

Letters to the Editor

Socceroos' feat, boost for Oz Soccer

Dear Sir,

What a tumultuous fifty years it has been for Australian Soccer. Exactly fifty years (1951) an English FA rep team consisting only of players from the lower divisions (no stars) made an extensive tour of Australia.

Despite this, large crowds attended most of the matches played across the nation. The English team won every match bar on (Granville Sydney)

mostly by huge scores. Australia lost one test match by the then record 17-1 for an international.

Of all the many low points Oz Soccer has hit over the years 1951 was arguably the all time low. It also proved that between 1881 and 1951 soccer had made negligible progress which I believe was the precursor for the ethnic takeover of Oz Soccer from 1957 onwards.

Fifty years on and some-

how against all the odds Oz Soccer has managed to advance and gain a degree of susceptibility.

In 2001 an understrength Socceroos beats an understrength France the world champions 1-0.

Its a world away from that day in 1951 when Australia lost 17-1 to a non decrepit English FA team in Australia. More amazing is the fact that most of the progress Soccer has made in Oz has happened

"despite" the people in charge and not because of them and their decisions.

Its mindboggling to think what else could have been achieved over the last fifty years if Oz Soccer was controlled by serious, competent and knowledgeable administrators.

R. Melor,
Bondi, NSW.



Clayton Zane: Scored the winner against France.

A memorable Youth League Final

Dear Sir,

'Thank You' for the report on the Northern Division Final — the photo, written report and the information on the Grand Final for the National Youth League — even though the day and date did not agree!

The National Youth League Grand Final was an exciting match, equal or better to most NSL games. Winners are grinners, congratulations to Melbourne Knights' Youth League.

Commiseration to Marconi, you played extremely well and were very unlucky.

Football in Australia still has a long way to go apart from the poor coverage of National Youth League (my previous letter).

For example, firstly, why wasn't the NYL Grand Final played before the Wollongong vs South Melbourne Grand Final at Parramatta to give the young players exposure and the fans an exciting game to watch?

After all, they are the up-and-coming players of the future.



Melbourne Knights Under 20s with the NYL trophy which they won after beating Marconi Stallions in the final.

Secondly, why does Northern Spirit have a catch-up Youth League competition game on Grand Final day denying fans the opportunity

to attend or watch the Grand Final live?

As an Australian who supports Soccer, Soccer Australia, the NSWFS, and local clubs

need to focus together to enhance the game, not fragment it!

Ron Hartshorn,
Blue Mountains, NSW.

What is C7 up to?

Dear Sir,

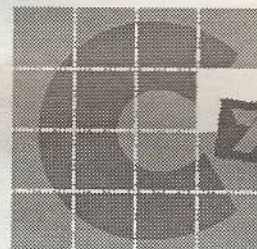
By Friday 1st June, not long before the NSL Grand Final, here in Brisbane, I had not seen any information on Channel 7 about the game being tele-

vised live, at 12noon. In The Australian and Courier Mail a day earlier

both had on their TV guides at 12.00 Sunday Channel 7 a program about Queensland (postcard from the past).

On the Pay TV guide, C7 Sport had the NSL Grand Final live at 3pm.

Now I'm no brain-wave, but methinks that with this mis-information and an obvious lack of interest from Channel 7, the viewing audience would have been very low.



There Channel 7 will say that Soccer clearly doesn't rate on TV just-

ifying their lack of interest in TV coverage during the year, interesting analogy.

I wonder if I will be proven right.

G. Evans,
Runcorn, Qld.

SA's shoddy Grand Final Show

Dear Sir,

I wish to congratulate the Wollongong Wolves Club and South Melbourne on a great show of football played in what I consider to be in the spirit of the game.

I cannot give the same accolades to Soccer Australia for it's handling of the event. There were some serious problems that Soccer Australia must address before the start of the next season.

First problem to encounter was the security on entering the western grandstand of Parramatta Stadium. Let me say that I support any action to stop people bringing flares, smoke and other fireworks in to grounds, however to stop kids bringing in water bottles is over the top.

We had with us part of our local Under 11 Soccer team many of which had their water bottles with them and with signatures of their favourite soccer players by attending Coerver coaching clinics in the Illawarra.

The reason given by security staff was that it was considered a weapon as it could be thrown at officials, yet when I pointed out that the stadium was selling bottled water and beer, the answer was that he has his instructions from Soccer Australia.

I asked if I could empty the contents to bring in empty bottles, however their answer was no. The kids if they wanted to see the game had to throw their bottles in a garbage bin which by then was three quarters

full of bottles.

Second problem was the long line up and outrageous prices charged for food and drink. What would have happened if there were 20,000 people in attendance?

Third problem was there was little pre-match entertainment. Their choir and the Roo-ball players were good, but if that is all Soccer Australia can come up with then they better employ someone who knows how to entertain a crowd.

You would think it has been more appropriate to play the youth league grand final before the main game. Imagine the thrill of those players playing before a large crowd.

If Soccer Australia is serious about revamping the game then it

must start with the people running the game. The amount of distrust and discontent with Soccer Australia is ruining this great game and treating kids the wrong way will only make them seek other sports.

The boo's that greeted Soccer Australia officials at the grand final presentation must be a wake up call at the handling of not only the grand final but also in soccer generally.

In a year when our national team is in its most important qualification phase of the World Cup then what is needed is a bit of stability at the top. Remember, treat kids well now and you will have them for life.

John Miller,
Thirroul, NSW.

Strikers' unfortunate fate

Dear Sir,

There has been a lot of anger and emotion about the demise of both the Brisbane Strikers and the Canberra Cosmos this past week or so, as it look's like they are being made scapegoat's by Soccer Australia for SA own incompetence.

While they have a valid point in crying foul about the criteria involved, plus the shifty deal, done by the previous administration with regard's to the NZ Kingz they also have known about a 12 team comp on the agenda for the past 12 months.

Everybody also knows that it won't necessarily change a thing next year, or if it does it will be minimal.

What Soccer Australia whats to do by the look of things, is to weed out the unsuccessfully — run club's slowly and hopefully replace them with more Perth Glory in future.

As a Queenslander it hurts to

see the Strikers dropped from the competition, but if a Brisbane side has to return in future it has to be done properly, with the full backing of the QSF, board members and the public. We don't need court battles over who owns what, or who owns the club.

If that can all be sorted out, I am sure that a Brisbane consortium will come back, bigger and stronger than ever in season 2002-2003. State Government assistance would not go astray, as Premier Peter Beattie needs a successful Brisbane soccer team in the NSL to save the \$280 million redevelopment of Lang Park (Suncorp Stadium) from being a white elephant.

The same should apply to the Federal Government in Canberra, as a lot of money has been spent on Bruce Stadium down there.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

YOUTH STARS TO SHINE IN ADELAIDE

Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium has been earmarked to host a spectacular eight-team world youth club tournament in July next year.

Manchester United, Juventus, Bayern Munich and Glasgow Rangers will headline the series which also will feature club sides from Brazil, Korea, Japan and an Australian team chosen from national and State youth leagues.

The teams in the age group between 17 and 19, will compete for significant prize-money in the proposed series being planned by Sydney-based sports marketer Mike Kennedy and Adelaide-based Glenn Dods, the former New Zealand World Cup and Adelaide City defender.

Soccer legends Pele and Bobby Charlton will be invited to kick-off the tournament, to be called, the Festival Cup, an ideal title, because it is to be played in South Australia — the Festival State.

The South Australian Soccer Federation has successfully staged two World Youth Cup tournaments in 1981 and 1993 at Hindmarsh Stadium, which also was an Olympic football venue last year.

Kennedy, who heads Market Works, the sports entertainment group, said he was currently in discussion with Australian Major Events about staging the mouth watering event in Adelaide.

"Bayern, Juventus and Rangers came on board some time ago and Manchester United have recently confirmed they are coming," Kennedy said.



Pele: To kick-off Adelaide's global youth tourney.

The Festival Cup will feature two groups of four, with semi-finals, a third place play-off and a final, with double headers played on each of the nine match days.

Manchester United and Juventus will be seeded in opposite groups, in anticipation of a classic final, certain to attract a sell-out attendance.

Dods endorsed Hindmarsh Stadium as an ideal choice for the series, citing the glowing report given the facility by UEFA president Lennart Johansson when he watched two Olympic football games there last year.

NATIONAL OR — IRRATIONAL LEAGUE?

Rarely does a daily newspaper devote an editorial to a sporting topic, but Adelaide's Advertiser was compelled to do just that the morning after Soccer Australia released its restructured 12-team league for next season.

This is how the paper viewed the decision — "At a time when the international side, the Socceroos, are again showing their championship mettle, Soccer Australia is behaving with exceptional eccentricity and myopia.

"It has cut the National Soccer League from 14 to 12 teams and, in so doing,

given a bizarre interpretation of the word national. Out go Canberra Cosmos and the Brisbane Strikers.

"The consequence being that the so-called national league consists of seven clubs from NSW — five from Sydney with Wollongong and Newcastle — two from Melbourne, one each from Adelaide and Perth and one based in Auckland.

"Whatever the financial arguments and justification behind the decision — said to be the determining factor — this was blinkered, indeed, imbecilic politics and public relations.

"Soccer Australia chairman Mr Tony Labbozzetta said this would make the code stronger. In NSW perhaps. This logic is unfathomable."

MAKRIS STILL CONFIDENT

Despite rejection of his bid to enter a team in the revamped NSL, Adelaide property developer Con Makris remains positive his ambition will eventually be realised.

"We submitted an outstanding bid and we demonstrated that we have the financial resources few clubs could hope to match," Makris said.

"We felt confident with the way we addressed all of the criterion initially set by Soccer Australia.

"We consider this as a delay, however, the decision will not reduce our determination to be successful in the future.

"We maintain our philosophy, and therefore we are totally committed to bringing a broad based team to South Australia as we believe Adelaide needs a second team."

Makris said he did not see the decision as a rejection, but rather something that would inevitably work in his favour.

To demonstrate his commitment to the cause, Makris said he would travel to Sydney on Friday and Saturday to speak with the Socceroo players he has been negotiating with as potential signings for his new club.

"If we are definitely out we will start preparing for the following season," he said. "I don't think it's a matter of if, but when we join the NSL."

JETS JINXED

Records are made to be broken, but Modbury Jets, despite their best efforts, could not break a Ramsay Park hoodoo that has existed since 1974.

That's when Modbury last toppled the Playford Patriots at their home ground and the jinx prevailed as Alby Kidd's team triumphed 2-1 in a key round 10 clash which sent the Jets crashing off the top of the Premier League ladder.

Duane Dobson gave Modbury a 13th minute lead after converting an assist from Jason Trimboli before Carl Veart emphasised the value of recruiting NSL guest players when the Adelaide City vice-captain levelled for the Patriots two minutes prior to the half time break.

However, lightning struck again from the resultant restart as Theo Anastasiou netted the winner before the referee sounded the interval.

Meanwhile, Olympic FC joined the ranks of the clubs fielding new signings when Sydney Olympic youngster Elias Demourtzidis returned to his former club to play against Blue Eagles.

The ex-Adelaide Sharks striker impressed with his skill, tenacity and cre-



Carl Veart: Adelaide City's v-captain who scored for Playford Patriots in the Premier League.



Kosta Salapasis: Joins Adelaide Olympic from Adelaide City Force.

ative ability as Olympic held the top ranked Blue Eagles to a creditable 1-2 scoreline.

And Demourtzidis, who has two seasons left on his contract with Sydney Olympic, capped a fine display by netting his team's only goal of the tough encounter.

The Adelaide Olympic has Kosta Salapasis from Adelaide Force as its NSL draft pick, but Demourtzidis also is eligible as a loan player because he is under 21 years of age.

Olympic FC's other acquisition, John Tsalavoudis also made his debut against his old club Blue Eagles, coming off the bench and earned a starting spot against Adelaide City last Saturday.

Allan Crisp can be heard on the Marshall Thompson/Pacific Real Estate 5RPH (1197am) Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-8.30am, along with Croydon Kings coach Phil Scardigno, Peter Millar, the Advertiser soccer writer, Meno Tousidis and producer Rob Popplestone.

Millar and Crisp return on Sundays from 8.30am-9.30am, in company with Playford Patriots midfielder Mark Brazzale and guests for the 5RPH (SOS) "Soccer On Sunday" program.

South Australia Premier League Results



ROUND 11

PREMIER LEAGUE

Blue Eagles (Brooks 2, Arnone)	3	Adelaide City (Deegan)	1
Port Lion Pirates (R. Calabria)	1	Olympic FC (Salapasis)	1
Modbury Jets (Trimboli 2, Isaacson, Yates, Doran, tog)	4	Port Pirie Spirit (Locke)	1
White City Woodville (S. Barbaro, Iandiorio)	0	Croydon Kings	2
Metro Stars (Day 2, Schimizzi, Fleetwood, DeGiovannello)	5	Playford Patriots (Pearce)	1

Campbelltown Red Devils v Raiders
(Postponed due to waterlogged pitch)

STATE LEAGUE

Birkalla	1	Western Strikers	2
Cobras	0	Noarlunga Bulldogs	2
Salisbury Apaches	1	Enfield Falcons	4
Northern Demons	2	Para Hills Knights	1
Seaford Surfers	2	Panthers	1
Hills Hawks	2	Cumberland Foxes	0

ROUND 12

PREMIER LEAGUE

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

Modbury Jets v Olympic FC

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

Port Lion Pirates v Blue Eagles
Campbelltown Red Devils v Croydon Kings
White City Woodville v Playford Patriots
Metro Stars v Port Pirie Spirit
Raiders v Adelaide City

STATE LEAGUE

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

Cobras v Birkalla
Hills Hawks v Panthers
Seaford Surfers v Para Hills Knights
Northern Demons v Enfield Falcons
Salisbury Apaches v Noarlunga Bulldogs
Cumberland Foxes v Western Strikers

Queanbeyan Eye Promotion

By Graham Cooke

Queanbeyan City, the yo-yo side of ACT football over recent years, are laying the foundations for another assault on the territory's top competition.

City were up and down twice in the 1990s, always strugglers in the ACT Premiership, but generally too strong for the competition immediately below.

Now they are plotting a campaign to gain promotion to the Premiership from State League Division One, where they have been resident for the past two seasons.

Club president Ilja Tomeska said the club had begun training three times a week, and were drawing crowds of 300 to their games 'which would be the envy of most Premiership clubs'.

"We have attracted a lot of good quality youngsters from the Queanbeyan area — in fact we

ACT Premiership

have 38 players under the age of 19 registered with the club," he said.

This season City had gained players from Premiership teams



Bill Dojcinoski: Capital City coach unhappy with Gjorgievski's movement to Queanbeyan.

including Canberra Deakin, Monaro and, most recently, Danny Gjorgievski, from Capital City Suns.

He rejected suggestions from Suns coach Bill Dojcinoski that Gjorgievski had moved because he would get a lighter training regime.

"Danny will have to work as hard here as he would with any Premiership club," he said. "There will be no passengers."

Leading players with the club were centre-back Miro Tnenec, a former professional in Yugoslavia, Macedonia and Switzerland, 17-year-old Vladko Tomeski who had already scored 13 goals this season and midfielders Zmejko Trajkoski and Vajcko Stojteska.

The club were still seeking a major sponsor, but in the meantime were grateful of the support of Domino's Pizza.



Canberra Cosmos players' Daniel Allifi (left) and Milton Cortes, celebrating a fine outing in the just concluded 2001 season. Uncertainty now surrounds the club's fate in the National Soccer League following SA's decision to reduce the League to 12 teams.

Petersen walks away from Souths

By Bert van Bedaf

The Football Kingz have got themselves the best coach in the NSL, while South Melbourne contemplates life after Mike Petersen, who's left the Lakesiders in favor of a Kiwi contract two days before being voted coach of the year in Sydney last Saturday night.

For South Melbourne the season that promised so much and started so well has come down with a thud. It gambled \$1 million on winning the national title and lost. It lost its dream to Wollongong little over a week ago and its coach to the Kingz last Thursday.

A disappointed Petersen revealed immediately after the grand final loss, "I don't know if I'm cut out to be a career coach."

What he didn't say at the time was "not at South Melbourne", because a day later Petersen revealed New Zealand NSL club Football Kingz had been in touch with him. "They've had discussions with me a few weeks ago," he said.

If anyone can be blamed for Petersen leaving the club after being its coach for one season, it's the fans who verbally-abused him on several occasions when matches didn't go South's way during the regular season and the finals.

It provoked Petersen in saying, "They want to win with us, but they don't want to lose with us. I look at these people and I don't know why they come."

Petersen, who rejected the option of completing a two-year contract at South, was impressed with the undying loyalty Kingz fans showed their team after South trounced the Kiwis 6-1 in round 29.

"If I'd just watched my club (South) go down 6-1, I'd have to go underground (to escape angry fans). But here (Auckland) the fans stayed on and cheered the side. I hope I can build from that," Petersen said.

Petersen has been appointed manager/coach and replaces Wynton Rufer, who becomes a director of the club and takes up a position with the club owner Sky Television. His brother Shane Rufer will continue as assistant coach to Petersen. Former Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos is a front runner in succeeding Petersen.

Petersen beat several prominent names to the Kingz job, including former Olyroos and caretaker Socceroos coach Raul Blanco, as well as former Carlton assistant coach Fab Incantalupo, who felt he'd been poorly-treated by the Kingz.

Only weeks ago, the Kingz had told him his was "the best application".

"Although I wasn't told that I had the job, I thought I'd gone a step closer," Incantalupo told website trib-alfootball.

Incantalupo waited several weeks believing he'd get the nod only to be told Petersen had been appointed.

"I got the phone call last Friday to tell me Petersen had got the job. The whole experience has left a bitter taste in my mouth," Incantalupo said. Vasilopoulos was also angry at the way the Kingz had snared South's coach.

"I am disappointed at the action of the Kingz. They were aware of the two-year agreement we had with Mike Petersen," Vasilopoulos said.

"I could have stayed. I had an option with South Melbourne, but I felt it was time to move on," Petersen said.

By all accounts, it has been a disappointing finale to what promised to be a triumphant season for South.

Melbourne's most success-



Mick Petersen

ful club assembled the best possible side, full-time for the first time, under rookie coach Petersen, who succeeded back-to-back titles coach Ange Postecoglou, now national youth team coach.

Petersen indicated there might be a major player overhaul at South in the wake of the grand final defeat.

"It's an older squad and it could be the end (of an era). The core group would probably change significantly, if it wanted to remain a force," Petersen said.

There are eleven players, an entire team, on the way out or in doubt.

Striker John Anastasiadis, 33, announced his retirement well before the grand final. There is also captain Paul Trimboli, 32, Fausto De Amicis, 33, David Clarkson, 33, and Mehmet Durakovic, 36 on the ageing list.

Simon Colosimo is likely to move to an overseas club and players like Vaughan Coveny, Goran Lozanovski and Steve Iosifidis haven't been regular starters this season. Con Boutsianis and Andy Vlahos are out of contract and able to move to another club.

South has already announced a wages cut. Without the prospect of FIFA money coming from a world tournament, the club needs to rely on sponsorship, especially from major sponsors Bank of Cyprus and recently announced Crazy John's, to finance next season.

Vasilopoulos has put it plainly. "Our wages bill has been \$75,000 a fortnight for the year. We won't have the finance to foot the bill next year or the year after. There is not enough money coming in."

With the title loss hitting hard, South Melbourne has reached the end of an era.

After back-to-back titles and world cup club fame under Postecoglou behind them, South faces a season of severe cost-cutting, player retirements and possibly executive exits.

Petersen already has left, but the club's general manager Damien Phillips might not stay on and Vasilopoulos, president for many years, will certainly come under pressure in coming weeks to step down in favor of a new board team.

A reform group headed by Phil Diamataris is pushing for change. "The present administration is out of touch. It is time for a change and fresh blood to take over," Diamataris said recently.

CLUBS DEMAND COSMOS, STRIKERS' REINSTATEMENT

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Cosmos officials claimed they and Brisbane Strikers had taken a major step along the road to National Soccer League survival after a meeting of clubs on Friday unanimously backed a motion to have 14 teams in the competition for the 2001-02 season.

The proposal flies in the face of a decision by the board of Soccer Australia earlier in the week to reduce the competition to 12 clubs by axing the Cosmos and the Strikers.

And with Soccer Canberra pushing for a special general meeting and a vote of no confidence in the board, the game's supreme executive body are facing a mounting rebellion within the ranks.

Cosmos chairman Danny Moulis agreed after the meeting that Soccer Australia could simply override the NSL and press ahead with their plans but they will ignore this motion at their peri.

"It was a unanimous decision of the clubs which form the league

Soccer Australia is trying to change," he said. "These clubs know their business and their will cannot be ignored."

He said the NSL motion had been made subject to the Cosmos providing further financial guarantees. "These are the same guarantees Soccer Australia has requested from the

12 teams it wants to retain in the competition but refused to accept from us," he said.

"They concern our shareholders and sponsors and I have no doubt we can comply."

Soccer Australia have maintained that a 12-team competition is important for the long-term financial viability of the NSL.

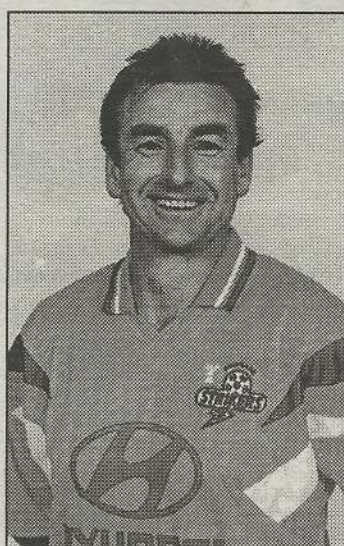
He expected developments in the next few days would be crucial for the Cosmos and the



Danny Moulis: In the forefront of the battle to regain NSL status for Cosmos.

Strikers, and perhaps for the future of the game in Australia.

Meanwhile, Soccer Canberra president Steve Doszpot, contacted over the weekend, said the NSL vote would make no difference to his organisation's plans to push for a vote of no confidence.



John Kosmina: Coach of embattled Brisbane Strikers.

Bill Turner Cup

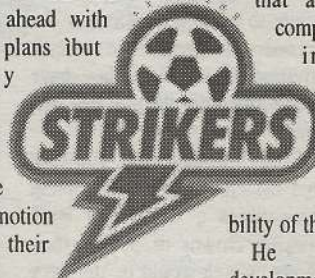
Results

Round 2:

Crestwood 1, Asquith Boys 0, Oakhill 4 Castle Hill 2, Cromer 5 Masada College 2, Woolooware 2 Aquinas College 1, Endeavour Sports 2 Jannali 0, McCarthy Catholic 4 Cranebrook 0, Emmaus Catholic 8 Windsor 0, Concord 4 Chris Bros Lewisham 3, Ashfield Boys 6 Delany College 2, Freeman Catholic 2 Westfields Sports 1, East Hills Boys 2 Bass 1, Oxley 6 Gunnedah 2, McCarthy Tamworth 5 Tamworth 2, Duval 9 Gen Innes 0, Inverell 3 Holy Trinity Inverell 0, St Josephs Banora 1, Kingscliff 0, Alstonville 3 Trinity Lismore 2, Toormina 2 Bishop Druitt 1, Catherine McAuley Grafton 4 Grafton 1, Port Macquarie 4 Westport 0, St Catherines Singleton 2 Scone Grammar 0, Muswellbrook 2-3 Cessnock 2-2, St Peters Maitland 2 Maitland 0, Francis Greenway 4 Newcastle 2, Hunter Sports 6 West Wallsend 0, Belmont 4 Whitebridge 3, St Francis Xavier 7 Karabar 0, Belconnen 2-5 Stromlo 2-4, Daramalan 1 Canberra 0, Telopea 5 Alfred Deakin 1, Radford College 3 Layon 0, Carroll College 2 Eden 0, James Sheehan 3 Mudgee 0, Canobolas 9 Canowindra 0, Narromine 3 Willyama 1, St Johns Dubbo 2 Orange 1, Kelso 4 Oberon 1, Xavier Albury 1-5 Albury 1-3, Picton 6 Moss Vale 1, Warrawong 1 Oak Flats 0.

Round 3:

Killara 5 Balgowlah Boys 0, Birrong Boys 1 Casimir College 0, Grantham 2 Northmead 1, St Johns Park Miller 1, Dubbo 3 Delroy 1, Duval 4 Armidale 1, Inverell 8 Ashford Central 3.





• Wollongong Wolves' players celebrating their Grand Final success. Unfortunately, they will miss out on the World Club Cup, due to FIFA's last minute cancellation of the event.

... What a season! (2)

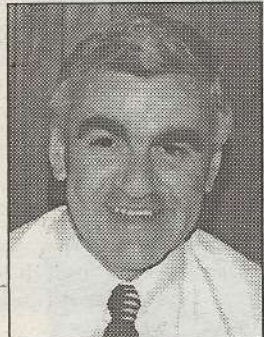
• Continued from last week

Victorian Editor BERT VAN BEDAF here concludes his look back on a troubled season that culminated in back-to-back titles for Wollongong Wolves.

Vlado Vanis was sacked at the Melbourne Knights with six rounds left.

Marth took over as captain-coach. Lee Sterrey was told he would not be coaching Newcastle United next season. The brothers Wynton and Shane Rufer were issued a similar message at the Football Kingz. Eddie Krncevic lost his job at Marconi as the Stallions dropped out of the finals race.

Then there was Stuart Munro whose coaching job at Carlton evaporated and Jeff Hopkins' future at Eastern Pride is also uncertain.



Basil Scarcella became the new Oceania boss.



Grand-final-winning coach Nick Theodorakopoulos didn't even get a start, being replaced with Ron Corry at the Wolves before the season. Theodorakopoulos, who gave Wollongong its first title last season, predicted the Wolves would win their second in a row. "I said Wollongong would win it all along," the former Wolves coach remarked.

Life at the administrative helm also changed. Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarcella moved up to succeed the retiring New Zealander Charles Dempsey as president of the Oceania Football Confederation.

It unleashed a bitterly-fought scramble for the SA chairmanship, which eventually went to Marconi strongman and NSL chairman Tony Labbozzetta, ahead of Victorian commissioner Joe Brondolino. Seeing out Scarcella's remaining term, Labbozzetta has nine months in the chair before facing re-election. Former NSW pre-

mier Neville Wran retired as Soccer Australia president.

The biggest blow to Australia's international club chances was struck a few weeks ago, when FIFA (football's world body) announced the cancellation of the world cup for clubs,

that was to be held in Spain in late July.

South Melbourne participated in the inaugural cup in Brazil last year and picked up \$3.8 million. Wollongong stood to earn \$4.7 million from its outing. It already had spent about \$200,000 to

become Oceania champion.

FIFA's decision to call off the 12-club tournament shattered the Wolves.

The only consolation is that FIFA is considering Wollongong's and the other clubs' claims for compensation.



Mark Viduka: His glittering career climbed to new heights at English club, Leeds and earned him the Oceania Best-Player-of-the-Year award.

The club tournament made winning the national title so much more lucrative, since it opened a window on to the world stage and the chance of gaining a capital inflow unique for an Australian club. That cash incentive to improve and expand has gone now that the window has been snapped shut.

South Melbourne, for example, had gambled close to \$1 million on winning the title this season to have a second shot at the pot of gold at the end of the world rainbow — and lost. It now needs to recoup the money in other ways. Unfortunately, Wollongong's second title win won't get it on to the world stage, since the world tournament seems to have been axed for good.

expects valuable sponsorship dollars to flow from the partnership.

There were several smashing victories to highlight the season. Brisbane Strikers trounced Adelaide City 6-2 in round 12. Perth Glory hammered Brisbane 7-2 in round 13. Perth Glory out-slugged Adelaide City 6-4, while the Wolves got into the swing against Newcastle for a 9-4 monster score.

One of the NSL's greatest players and former Socceroo captain, Alex Tobin broke the league record of 445 games, held by former Adelaide City team-mate Sergio Melta.

Another Adelaide Force, Aurelio Vidmar, who returned after eight years playing overseas, reached



Bob Catlin: Newcastle's veteran became the first goalkeeper to achieve 100 clean sheets in the NSL.

One way of attracting funds is becoming a sister club to an overseas giant. Northern Spirit is already owned by Glasgow Rangers, but Sydney Olympic knocked back overtures from Leeds United. South Melbourne has established links with Olympiakos and

200 NSL games this season. Trimboli passed 400 NSL games and the retired John Anastasiadis cracked his 300 matches.

In other milestones, Sydney United's Francis Awaritefe hung up his boots after 323 NSL games, while Robbie Slater bowed out at Northern Spirit after a distinguished career overseas and for the Socceroos.

Newcastle's Bob Catlin became the first NSL goalkeeper to record 100 clean sheets when United held South Melbourne to a 0-0 draw in round 10.

The Melbourne Knights played their 500th NSL game this season.

Australia's brightest product Mark Viduka was named 2000 Oceania Footballer of the Year.

The 24-year-old Viduka is now Australia's most prominent sports star.

His award-winning prowess in Australia, Croatia, Scotland, England and Oceania now makes him the top Australian contemporary sports icon, ahead of Cathy Freeman, Greg Norman or any Aussie Rules Football player.

Viduka is a hero at England's Premier League club Leeds United, together with other Aussie star Harry Kewell, spearheading Australia's fame abroad.

• Concluded

Chipperfield, Brazil steal show at 'Night of Nights'

By Emma Nwaneri

While tormenting the Brazilian defence in faraway Suwon, South Korea, Wollongong Wolves' Scott Chipperfield was being honoured in the dim confines of the Grand Harbour Ballroom of the StarCity here in Sydney, last Saturday night.

Chipperfield took away the Warren Medal for the National Soccer League Players' Player of the Year Award — for the second year in a row. He polled a total of 156 votes, fourteen more than Perth Glory's Bobby Despotovski on 142.

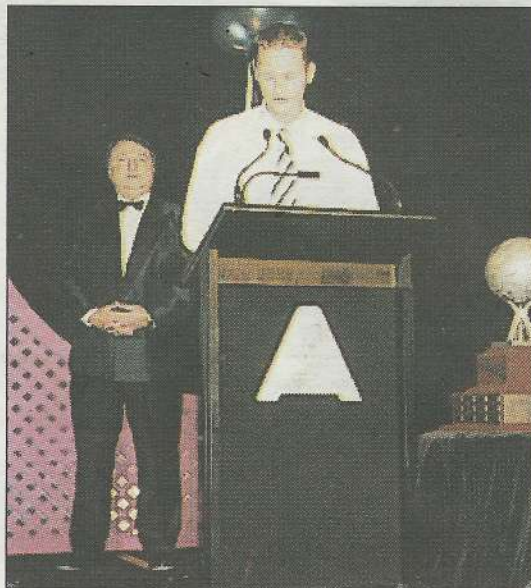
Another Glory star, Damian Mori emerged third with 133 votes, while Con Boutsianis (South Melbourne) got 71 and Archie Thompson (Marconi Stallions/Carlton) ended on 63. For Mori, it was another feather to an already-brimming hat as he

had earlier on the night pocketed the Top Goalscorers' award.

Chipperfield's feat however now puts him in illustrious company as a back-to-back medal winner, with arguably Australia's most successful soccer export, Mark Viduka — a dual winner in seasons 1993/1994 and 1994/1995, as well as current senior National Team coach Frank Farina in seasons 1987 and 1988.

In a glittering and well-

attended ceremony which had Honourable John Murray, Speaker of the New South Wales parliament, standing in the for the Premier, Mr. Bob Carr, as special guest of honour, Australian soccer celebrated its 'night of nights', as well as 25th anniversary. The ceremony, which lasted the better part of three hours, was declared open in a terse speech by Soccer Australia chairman, Mr Tony Labbozetta, in which he gave a



Mickey Petersen: Responding after collecting his award as Coach-of-the-Year.

brief background to the origins of organised soccer in the country.

Labbozetta praised the efforts of all and sundry who laid the foundations for what is now known as the National Soccer League in 1977, while reminding everyone present of the need to highlight the achievements of the individuals and clubs being honoured on the night.

The occasion interestingly was punctuated with regular updates of the Socceroos' Confederations Cup showdown

with mighty Brazil in Japan, and when the final scoreline came across that the unheralded Aussies had won by a lone goal, a mighty cheer shook the entire venue.

Despite the feel-good effect of the Socceroos' heroics, the shadow of last week's controversial reduction of the NSL, which saw the ouster of three teams from the competition re-echoed uncomfortably. Northern Division player of the year winner, Matthew McKay first drew attention to it. While responding

to his award, he inadvertently mentioned that he would be hoping to debut in the NSL with Brisbane Strikers in future. The obvious fact that the Strikers had been excluded from the NSL just five days before, was clearly lost on the young lad in the heat of the occasion.

Moments later, George Vasilopoulos, president of South Melbourne reminded those in the audience who hitherto did not know that 24 hours earlier, all the NSL clubs had met and decided they wanted a 14-team league. The recommendations, he insisted had been passed-on to Soccer Australia board.

The tension on everyone's face did not require words to be understood.

Notwithstanding, the night

still went well as food, drink and music flowed in abundance to help soothe the nerves of all those present and correct the impression that Australian soccer was a code in distress.

In the other Awards presented on the night, Northern Spirit striker Ben Burgess scooped the Under 21 Player of the Year, while South Melbourne coach Michael Petersen capped off a fantastic rookie season, by out-gunning Wolves' grand final-winning Ron Corry, for the Coach-of-the-Year.

Another award winged its way to the Victorian club with South Melbourne goalkeeper Michael Petkovic, pipping his sibling, Glory's Jason, to the Goalkeeper-of-the Year award.



Cup winning Wollongong Wolves' coach, Ron Corry (right) with his lovely wife.



(L-R) Massimo Murococa, Con Boutsianis, George Vasilopoulos, Mickey Petersen and Michael Petkovic all from South Melbourne.

Elrich, Power's Pick-of-the-Pack

By Daniel Giorelando

Twenty-year-old Ahmad Elrich was last week rewarded for a superb season by being announced Parramatta Power's Player of the Year in season 2000/01 at the club's Awards Luncheon held at the Parramatta League's Club.

Elrich, who was unable to accept his award because of international duty with Australia's Under 20 squad currently in Chile, was a worthy recipient after moving his way up from the Club's Youth League squad last season. His father Mahmoud accepted the award on his son's behalf.

Power's senior coach David Mitchell acknowledged that Elrich has excelled since joining the club last year. "Ahmad performed very well last year. He has learnt a lot in the one and a half years at the club."

When contacted by the club in Chile, Elrich was understandably excited to win the award, telling the Parramatta Power

website: "I've worked really hard over the season and it's great to be recognised by my teammates and coaches."

Mitchell once again praised the efforts of another youngster as 18-year-old Matt Thompson was awarded the Club's most-improved player award, decided on by the coach himself.

Understandably Thompson, who made 22 appearances in the top grade this season including a starting spot in the final 13 games of the season, was delighted with the honour bestowed on him.

"I was very happy, the way I went this season. I started in first grade, played Youth for most of the season however I finished up playing the last 13 games."

"I'm hoping to consolidate a spot in first grade at Power, but I'll take the days as they go."

Whilst Parramatta's first grade team have failed to make it to the finals in their short history, the club's Youth Team has powered to the finals in both of their campaigns.

Finishing fourth this season was a fall from grace following



Ahmad Elrich: Parramatta Power's Player of the Year in 2000/01.

team for a quick tour of South America before September's World Cup. "Winning this award shows that people are taking notice of you, it shows you have had a good season. Making the Joey's hasn't hit me yet, it can't get any better, it's a kid's dream to play in a World Cup."

The most predictable award of the day was given to deadly striker Brendon Santalab who secured the club's top goalscorer award for the second straight year.

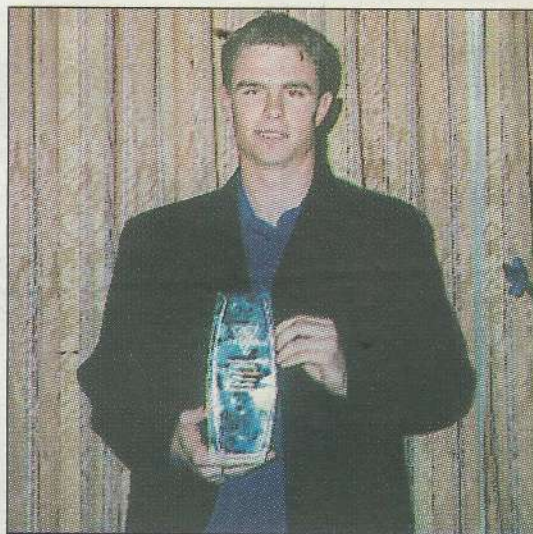
The 18-year-old picked up 18 goals in his second season at the club, including one goal in his first grade debut earlier this season against the Brisbane Strikers in round three.

"To win this award two years in a row is a big confidence-booster. This is the biggest thing I have achieved. Being a striker, you have to be consistent. If you are not scoring goals, then you are not doing your job."

However this can't be said of Brendon in the season just-completed as he bagged 17 goals in

the National Youth League, and in the process enhancing his chances of playing alongside older brother Michael in Parramatta's first grade squad next season.

"I just hope to establish myself here next season, settle in and play first grade," ended Santalab.



Matt Thompson: Rewarded by coach David Mitchell after being given the Coach Award by David Mitchell.



Brendon Santalab and Michael Brown: Both were rewarded for stellar seasons in the National Youth League with Brendon winning the club's Top goalscorer award while Michael was announced the Power's NYL Player of the Year.

last year's Championship winning effort. However the form of 17-year-old Michael Brown has not only given him a spot in the Australian Under 17 squad who are bound for September's World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago but also won him recognition as the club's NYL player of the year.

This was Brown's first season at the club, however the impact he has made is sure to see him crack into the first grade squad next season.

"I am hoping for more first grade appearances next season. Playing this season, I showed that I can cope with it."

Being recognised as the club's NYL player of the year is a big honour for Brown, who will be jetting off with the Joey's



(L-R) Parramatta Head Coach David Mitchell with Matt Thompson and Assistant Stuart Munro at last week's awards Luncheon.



The Day Sydney Stood still For the 'Black Pearl'

By Daniel Giorelando

Soccer's most-recognised face, Brazilian and football legend Pele was recently in Sydney for a whirlwind promotional tour for the upcoming World Cup in South Korea and Japan.

The youthful looking 60-year-old is set to embark on his third World Cup as an official ambassador for financial institution, MasterCard as they recently launched their official sponsorship of the World's single largest sporting event in Australia.

The affiliation with one of the world's most recognised figures is certainly the best partnership that MasterCard could have ever hoped for as they continue to promote football at all levels around the world alongside Pele, who is glad to be representing a team that 'has never lost'.

Understandably Pele is a drawing force wherever he shows his face, his media conference in Sydney was a uplifting and joyous event, despite the three time World Cup winner touching down in Australia just hours earlier.

And whilst most people remember him for his traits in the star-studded 1970 team that conquered all to regain the Jules Rimet Cup in 1970, his first World Cup in 1958 remains the turning-point in his career as a youthful 17 year-old.

"The 1958 tournament



Australian Soccer legend John Warren embraces Brazil's best Pele at the promotional press conference in Sydney.

gave me confidence, it was the beginning of my career," but there is no doubt in which Brazilian team he enjoyed playing in the most.

"The last one in 1970 was the best team of Brazil. I retired as a champion, that is what people remember."

And no one can question that Pele is a champion and

not only the greatest but also the youngest to ever win a World Cup.

Pele's achievements including winning five World Championships, three with Brazil and two with Brazilian club side Santos, along with a tally of 1,282 goals, 97 of them for the national team. These are

feats that will stay etched in the soccer annals for a long time to come.

So in the eyes of the world's best, is there anybody who could match him, and are there any players today that can be grouped in the same class as Pele is so highly-held in?

"To compare is very difficult, (Diego) Maradona was a very good player, but (Alfredo) di Stefano played with both feet".

Holland's Johan Cruyff, England's George Best and Germany's Franz Beckenbauer were also his pick-of-the-pack as great players.

But over the last five years, who has taken the mantle as the best player at present? Ironically the man that Pele sees as being the best in the business today, was the same man who caused his beloved Brazil so much anguish on a balmy night in Saint-Denis on July 12 last year.

"Zinedine Zidane in the last four to five years has been above average. Brazil's Rivaldo, Raul and Figo are all very good players."

Good players they are but how has the game changed since the days of Pele and the times in which the "Beautiful Game" was based on love and loyalty and not for financial gain which now seems to be steering the game further

away from its roots.

"If you have good players, you have good game. The way that the game is played has changed. Now more mental, less space. But when you have good players, the player makes the space."

Whilst the pace of the game has changed, the amount of money in the game is making it harder and harder for players to be loyal to just one team, making Pele's 18 year stint with club side Santos seem like a lifetime.

"Players of today have lost the love of the game. Who pays more they love more, they don't respect the shirt," kissing his tie in the same manner that players today kiss the logo of their club emblem.

"Teams can't continue to pay what they are at the moment. The don't care."

One thing that Pele cares about more than anything else is the state of soccer in his homeland, however problems at the national level, the availability of players together with the state of domestic soccer in Brazil all help to paint a bleak picture in which this powerhouse of world football is moving towards.

Going back to Brazil's defeat at the hands of France at the last World Cup, it seems as though the game in Brazil has been on the slide ever since, coupled with their poor performance in the 2000 Olympics, the game, at all levels and facets must be restructured according to Pele.

"Yes, to be honest of course Brazil have had things kind of difficult, because we have a lot of changes in coaches, last two years we have had three coaches. Brazil haven't played with the same team in the last three years."

The blame may be pointed at the coaches, Mario Zagallo, Wanderley Luxemburgo and current leader Emerson Leao, however the removal of Zagallo and Luxemburgo, the latter after a poor run in the Olympics, has meant an unstable run and different team formations almost every outing.

Things haven't changed under the guidance of current coach Leao who is now feeling the heat during the recently-completed Confederations Cup tournament.

"Because they draw one game, people are starting to talk about a new coach. A coach should be with the team for two to three years to get results. I think it will be a big mistake to change now."

In the eyes of Pele, Leao is

not the best person to lead Brazil into the next World Cup, and instead "Luxemburgo is the best coach in Brazil right now".

And while the national team struggles to regain their ranking as the best team in the world, matters domestically in Brazil are not short of a "disgrace" with energy crisis meaning games must be played during sunlight and a lack of a football calendar spelling chaos for both players and fans.

"The energy crisis is very bad, there is no excuse for fans not to go to games in the afternoon on weekends but during the day, people work and this is not good for the club."

"We are very worried, a country like Brazil does not have a calendar. It's a disgrace because they change games just days before kick-off. This is the time to sit down and work on it," a worried Pele stated.

Whilst the state of Brazilian soccer may be in a lull at present, the eminent return of star striker Ronaldo is sure to inject some life back into a team, who ironically have played without spark since the eve of the last World Cup, when Ronaldo was mysterious struck down with illness.

"No doubt he is important. Physically he is OK but confidence is lacking. I think he will recover and he will be fantastic for Brazil."

Despite the negativity in the game at present, Pele's commitment as a goodwill



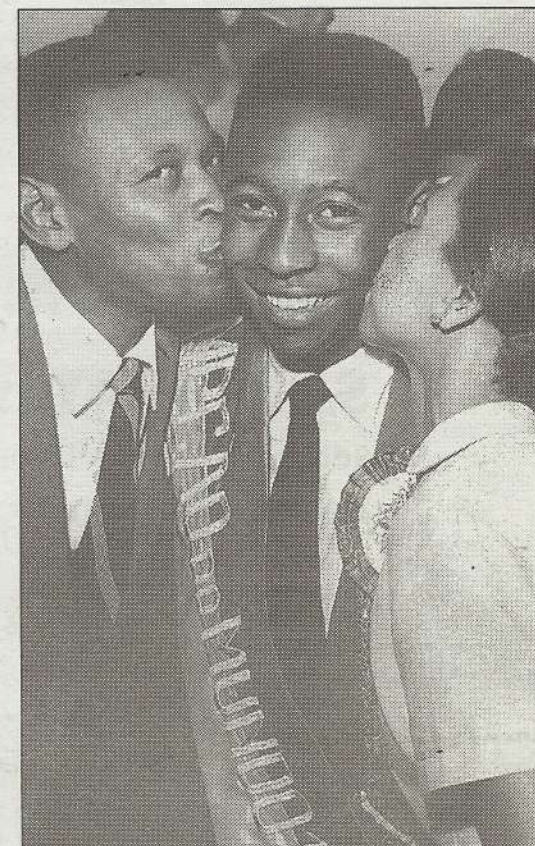
Pele: 'Black Pearl'

ambassador is a credit to his character and just one of the many facets that draw any pure soccer fan to admire him not only for what he accomplished on the field.

Forty-six years in the game since his debut as a 14 year old with Santos in 1955 has meant a far from normal life, however his love for this sport to move forward can be seen in not just his eyes but in the passion in which he speaks.

Pele enjoys his role as an ambassador for the "Beautiful Game" but will we ever see another Pele? A short but simple answer wrapped up just what this man is all about.

"When my father and mother made me, they broke the machine," bursting out in laughter with the realisation that it is true, the world is unlikely to see another player that will grace a field or promote the good the game as much as he has.



The 1958 World Cup was the first of three that Pele won with Brazil. The picture was taken soon after the final, with his parents who "broke the machine" years earlier.



Pele and Soccer Australia Chief Executive David Woolley hold up replica jerseys of the Brazilian and Australian national teams.



Victorian Premier League

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ROUND 17

Top Five Tightens

By Bert van Bedaf

The room at the top is so tight, there's literally a point between each side vying for the finals.

Heidelberg is still leading on 30 points, but Bulleen has shot into second spot and title contention a point behind the Bergers.

Zebras coach Joe Mullen identified the difference between Bulleen's poor performance in the first half of the season and now. "We're taking our chances and scoring goals," Mullen said.

But he's sounding cautious about Bulleen's title hopes. "There's another five weeks to go and we can fall just as quickly," Mullen said.

Title defender Green Gully is also hitting its straps and is now in third place, a point below the Zebras but a point ahead of the Port Melbourne Sharks, who continue to make a presence in the top five, despite some disappointing results.

Altona East is clinging to fifth place on 26 points, but Bentleigh Greens and Altona Magic are only a point behind and well in contention for a finals position.

After making the early running, St Albans has plummeted from grace and is now in relegation danger together with Fawkner and Preston, all on 22 points.

Dandenong Thunder is second bottom on 17 and is running out of time to salvage a Premier League spot, while the Essendon Royals are still without a win, on three points from three draws, and surely relegated.

Lions, Saints battle relegation

By David Davutovic

Preston Lions took a major step in its aim to avoid relegation with a scrappy 2-1 victory away to St Albans last Sunday.

The Lions now share 22 points with Fawkner and the Saints, with goal difference separating them in tenth, ninth and eighth place respectively.

The lead up to the match was filled with intrigue as new Saints boss Mark Talajic, coaching his first VPL game

since succeeding the departed Peter Crocker, came up against his former Melbourne Knights mentor Vlado Vanis at Knights Stadium.

Despite both coaches returning to familiar territory, the match never reached any great heights with neither side creating clear-cut chances and all three goals coming from odd opportunities.

The Saints went into the match undermanned, with Joe Cuze and Ivica Klarica out

through injury, while midfielder Mark Vidakovic was suspended.

Talajic drafted 20-year old Steve Klafuric into the squad for his senior debut.



Preston opened the scoring after 18 minutes when Jim Dimoski lobbed Marijan Vunderl in the Saints goal from the edge of the area in what appeared to be a miss-kick.

Five minutes later they doubled their lead when the Saints failed to clear the ball convincingly and Les Anastasiou struck a pile driver from 30 metres.

The visitors continued to put on the pressure in the second half as they twice hit the woodwork, once from a Dimce Panev header.

An eventful couple of weeks at Churchill Reserve may have taken its toll on the players, with Mick Colina and Crocker sacked, while influential utility Con Sianidis went to Division 1 outfit Whittlesea Stallions.



However, promising young defender Goran Mrak stung the Saints into action late in the game, when he let fly from 35 metres and beating Paci

Schwalger to cut the lead in half in the 80th minute.

Despite dominating the final stages of the match, the Saints couldn't find the back of the net and now lie dangerously close to

the relegation zone after leading the competition earlier in the season.

RECOGNITION FOR VOLUNTEERS



Geoff Miles VSF President.

In recognition of all club volunteers, who dedicate their time and contribute so much to our sport, the Victorian Soccer Federation wishes to

inform clubs of the inaugural Club Volunteer Awards, to be conducted on an annual basis.

The establishment of Club Volunteer Awards coincides with worldwide recognition of volunteers during the International Year of the Volunteer.

All clubs are asked to nominate one volunteer from their club (not a player), who has made an outstanding contribution to the club. This is not limited to club committee members, but also covers any area that

a volunteer may have contributed in the club environment ie. canteen, cleaning, linesman, manager, honorary coach, administration, support etc.

Club nominations will be considered by the respective League Committees and the VSF will advise the winner who will also receive a plaque in acknowledgment of his/her outstanding contribution. All volunteers nominated by their club will receive a certificate from the Victorian Soccer Federation.

One nomination per club will be considered and the following number of awards will be

given to each league:

Premier League - 1 award;

Crazy John's State League - 5 awards

(one award per division/region);

Provisional League - 5 awards (one award per division/region);

Women's League - 5 awards (one award per division/region);

Thirds League - 4 awards (one award per division);

Veterans League - 3 awards (one award per division);

Junior Leagues - 3 awards (north west region) and 3 awards (south east region).

All nominations must reach the VSF by no later than 31 August, 2001.

Please mark all nominations to the attention of the Chief Executive Officer and returned to the VSF either by fax (03) 9682 9777 or email Rebecca Smith. See VSF website for entry form and further details.

INTERNET'S POPULAR AMONG FANS

Sunday evenings and Monday mornings are the most popular times for fans to access the soccer-victoria website to check results and ladders of every league and every state competition.

Over 12,000 people visited the soccer-victoria.org.au internet site last May, clocking up over 333,000 page impressions in the process.

There are now over 140 club internet sites in operation, with some clubs doing a wonderful job keeping their sites up to date with club news, information and upcoming events. If your club doesn't have their free web site, please call 9685 8700 for more information.

DOW PRESENTS CLINIC

An experienced team of VSF coaches and National Soccer League players will be present once again at the next DOW Holiday Clinic, a 2-day programme of intensive coaching from 9:30am to 3:30pm for children aged 5 to 16 years on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th of July 2001.

The program includes fun, skills, drills and "Rooball Match Play". The participants will need to bring along BOTH outdoor boots and indoor soccer shoes in case of wet weather. No special clothing is required, but a change of clothes is recommended.

The DOW Holiday Clinic will take place at Albert Park Soccer Ovals (Melway Ref. 2K H11). If it's wet weather, indoor facilities are available at Albert Park Indoors Centre, Pit Building No. 3, Aughtie Drive (meeting point). There are limited vacancies, so applications must be received by

Monday, 2 July 2001. Call VSF on 9682 9666 for more information.



Victorian Premier League

ROUND 18

SATURDAY, 16TH JUNE

Essendon Royals vs Port Melbourne Sharks

Dandenong Thunder vs Fawkner Blues

SUNDAY 17TH JUNE

Altona East Phoenix vs Bentleigh Greens 3.00pm

Preston Lions vs Bulleen Zebras 8.15pm

Heidelberg Utd vs St Albans Saints 5.00pm

Green Gully Cavaliers vs Altona Magic 6.00pm

For more information, log onto
www.soccervictoria.org.au

VIC PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

(AFTER ROUND 17)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg United	16	9	3	4	23	15	30
Bulleen Zebras	16	8	5	3	23	17	29
Green Gully Caval'Rs	17	8	4	5	27	20	28
Port Melb'Rne Sharks	16	8	3	5	34	20	27
Altona East Phoenix	17	8	2	7	22	20	26
Bentleigh Greens	17	7	4	6	26	17	25
Altona Magic	17	7	4	6	25	23	25
St. Albans Saints	17	6	4	7	24	24	22
Fawkner Blues	17	5	7	5	19	19	22
Preston Lions	17	6	4	7	16	25	22
Dandenong Thunder	16	4	5	7	19	30	17
Essendon Royals	17	0	3	14	15	43	3



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION



"Perry Park" Abbotsford Road, Mayne. Brisbane. 4006.
Phone: (07) 3252 5327 • Fax: (07) 3252 1137 • www.qldsoccer.com.au

PREMIER LEAGUE WRAP-UPS By Glenn Davis

Mt. Gravatt, second bottom in the premier league, may have scuttled any hope Brisbane Lions had of winning the premier league championship with an upset 1-0 win at Dittmer Park on Saturday night.

Coach John Ogden acknowledged Brisbane Lions' plight after Mt Gravatt midfielder Ben Stabler scored the game's only goal midway through the first half.

Stabler's goal came after Adam Webber was brought down in the box but after play was waived on, Stabler pulled the trigger with a powerful left foot strike which snuck under Lions keeper Todd Rumble.

Brisbane Lions dominated possession but coach Mal Bland's match plan paid off handsomely for the Hawks. "We've lacked discipline all year so I stretched five players across the mid-field and told them all to just sit tight and be patient," Bland said.

"We always played with two strikers up front and we could have snuck another two but Webber struck a header wide midway through the second half



Frank Pimblett: Ipswich Knights' coach.

and Alan Gordon hit the post from outside the box.

Ogden conceded fourth placed Lions hopes of winning the championship was now out of their hands with leaders Brisbane City still eight points clear.

"We needed those points for sure to cut into Brisbane City's lead," Ogden said.

"It makes winning the premiership very difficult now and we'll be relying on other teams to beat Brisbane City. We probably need to win every game now to the end of the season to have a chance."

Lions fielded close to a full strength side against Mt. Gravatt

but was missing striker Matt Olley with a hamstring injury.

"Mt Gravatt put a lot of players behind the ball and were desperate and committed," Ogden said. We were camped in their half for almost the entire second half but we couldn't break them down."

At Underwood Park, Rochdale Rovers joined Ipswich in equal fifth spot, only two points behind Brisbane Lions after downing the Knights 2-1.



Ipswich, however, still has two games in hand and will be desperate for the points when they



Scott Elliot: Brisbane City's defender.

clash in a catch up match against second placed Wynnum on Wednesday night.

Ipswich coach Frank Pimblett was disappointed with the result and believed only defender Clint Scott could hold his head high after the defeat. "It was probably our worst performance of the season by a country mile and I'm at a loss to explain it," Pimblett said.

Ipswich scored first when Peter Hinks tucked home a cross from Wayne Adams after 15 minutes before Rochdale equalised two minutes from the break.

Rochdale's winners came from Ross Davidson and Taro Urabe.

"We scored first but our attitude was poor from the start," Pimblett said.

"The goal they scored just before the break I thought would be a wake-up call for us but it didn't turn out that way. We were looking at a top three finish but if we carry on like this we'll be looking at relegation."

Pimblett said the catch up match against Wynnum could be vital to their chances of making the top three.

"Ideally we want to get two

bites at the cherry at end of the year but we'll need to pick our act up quickly," Pimblett said. "The catch-up game against Wynnum is going to be crucial and it's a must-win game now for us."

Coach Keiran Cooper was delighted with the victory which keeps the club on target for a semi-finals berth.

Meanwhile Gold Coast's Steve Fitzsimmons has joined national league club Parramatta Power on a two-year contract from next season.



Steve Fitzsimmons

game was against the Chinese champions Shandong and there were 35,000 spectators there, and they reckon about three million were watching it on TV.

Fitzsimmons said playing in the NSL had been one of his ambitions and was looking forward to stepping up a level.

"I've been with Gold Coast for two seasons and before that I was with Rochdale for three seasons so that's been good experience at senior level for the next step in my career," he said.

Fitzsimmons, who has scored five goals in the premier league this season.



Matt Olley: Brisbane Lions

Fitzsimmons recently accompanied Parramatta on a tour of China and impressed Power coach David Mitchell.

"I went on a four-day trial with Parramatta and they invited me to tour China with them so I jumped at the chance," Fitzsimmons said.

"Things went well and the whole deal is now done and I'll probably join Parramatta for pre-season training in August.

"I played two full games which was good. The second



a large and parochial home crowd.

After a scoreless first half, Craig Slaughter silenced the crowd with a late goal to earn a next round berth against Mitchelton.

Also in north Queensland, Wynnum downed Townsville 3-1, Toowoomba thrashed Mackay 7-1 while Bundaberg had a convincing 4-1 over Rockhampton.

Qld Soccer at stake in Interstate Clash

By Glenn Davis

Queensland coach Miron Bleiberg believes Soccer Australia's decision to axe the Brisbane Strikers from the national league is a mistake and will prove a huge incentive for Queensland in the interstate clash with New South Wales at Blacktown on Saturday.

"Soccer Australia has made a huge mistake and we'll be fighting for the code in Queensland," Bleiberg said.

"For a state which has produced players of the calibre of Frank Farina and Steve Corica we feel we have a responsibility to show Soccer Australia they were wrong to chop the Strikers."

Bleiberg believes he'll field a

much stronger squad to the side which went down 3-1 to New South Wales at Perry Park last year.

However, Bleiberg, who coached Brisbane Strikers' predecessor Brisbane United in the national league, has a selection dilemma before choosing his final squad.

Bleiberg's main concern is with his goalkeepers where three contenders, Trevor Gilliland, Jamie Irwin and Jason Lucas, will be trimmed to two on Thursday.

"I've got three quality keepers but only two can go away," he said.

"All three are very good and dedicated and it's a tough decision having to leave one out."

Bleiberg also has a few headaches finalising his on-field

players although a late injury to Brisbane Lions striker Matt Olley will make the task easier.

Olley is expected to miss the next two weekends of club football, ruling him out of the interstate clash, with a hamstring injury.

Bleiberg believes the interstate clash has provided the Maroons with a further incentive following New South Wales' 3-1 win over Victoria in Melbourne recently.

"Apparently it was a comfortable win for New South Wales," he said.

"We've got a big mountain to climb but we got the incentives."

"If we can beat New South Wales then technically we'll be the best State at the moment."

"We lost to New South Wales last year but there wasn't much



Miron Bleiberg: Queensland's State coach.

between us and I feel we're a better side this year."

Bleiberg believes the decision by Soccer Australia to dump the Strikers risks a backfire on the Socceroos in the future.

"Queensland should get priority over New Zealand playing in the national league," he said. "We're shooting ourselves in the foot."

"By having New Zealand in there instead of a Queensland side is only improving New Zealand's chances when they next play Australia."

QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

FIXTURES (ROUND 14)

Saturday 16th June

TBA Raiders v Brisbane City	7.00pm
Wynnum v Rochdale Rovers	7.00pm
Gold Coast v Eastern Suburbs	7.00pm
Pine Rivers v Mt Gravatt	7.00pm

Sunday 17th June

IPSW Knights v Taringa Rovers	2.45pm
B'berg Waves v Brisbane Lions	2.45pm



NSW Youth League Results



SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION: Fraser Park Jets 1 (A Anderson 7m) Rockdale City Suns 2 (F Awaritefe 16m L Carle 59m), Hajduk Wanderers 0 Fairfield Bulls 8 (B Green 18/87m J Mancino 29/35/48m M Hoenselaars 53m J Ghiso 82m M Borg 83m), AC United 1 (A Picken 2m) Dulwich Hill 0.

GRADE 21: Fraser Park Jets 2 Rockdale City Suns 1, Hajduk Wanderers 1 Fairfield Bulls 0, AC United 0 Dulwich Hill 4.

GRADE 18: Fraser Park Jets 1 Rockdale City Suns 3, Hajduk Wanderers 0 Fairfield Bulls 1.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

GRADE 15: St George 1 Bankstown City Cubs 1.

GRADE 17: St George 0 Bankstown City Cubs 0.

SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Stanmore Hawks 2 (E Briscoe P Kypreos) Bankstown City Lions 0 (Rescheduled), Bankstown City Lions 0 Dulwich Hill 0, MSC Liverpool 1 (S Zullo 66m) Fairfield Bulls 3 (J Mancino 28m J Ghiso 42m M Borg 90m), Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 (E Petratos

15m) Macarthur Rams 2 (G King 48m L Gunn 54m), Stanmore Hawks 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 4 (A Griffiths 17m A Snyder 37m S Berry 54/87m), Hajduk Wanderers 1 (T Gledhill 77m) AC United 1 (V Sansone 15m).

GRADE 21: Bankstown City Lions 3 Dulwich Hill 0, MSC Liverpool 1 Fairfield Bulls 5, Hurstville City Minotaurs 0 Macarthur Rams 2, Stanmore Hawks 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 4, Hajduk Wanderers 0 AC United 0.

GRADE 18: Bankstown City Lions 1 Dulwich Hill 2, MSC Liverpool 1 Fairfield Bulls 0, Hurstville City Minotaurs 0 Macarthur Rams 2, Stanmore Hawks 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Hajduk Wanderers 1 AC United 2.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

GRADE 13: Parramatta Eagles 0 Sydney Olympic 2.

GRADE 14: Parramatta Eagles 1 Sydney Olympic 3.

GRADE 15: Parramatta Eagles 0 Sydney Olympic 1.

GRADE 17: Parramatta Eagles Sydney Olympic.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE

GRADE 11: Canterbury Marrickville 0 Northern Spirit 2.

GRADE 12: Parramatta Eagles 0 Sydney Olympic 3, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Northern Spirit 1.

WOLLONGONG NEWS



Stuart Young: Tipped to replace departing Matt Horsley as Wolves' captain.

By Otto Bader

Wolves Youngman an Aussie soon? — English-born Wolves' striker Stuart Young — a prolific target hitter — is considering to take out citizenship to possibly aim for recognition as an Aussie and leading his team to more success next year.

With skipper Matt Horsley left to go west, the popular Stuart Young could be the next team captain to motivate his side to represent Illawarra Soccer with honour. Young settled in Wollongong with his family, wife Clare and 15 month-old son Jacob (already a fair dinkum born here), has come a long way in his 28 years.

He is a product of the Arsenal of London youth scheme, played in the English leagues with Hull City, Northampton Town, Scarborough and Scunthorpe between 1991/1996 before moving on to the Singapore first division.

As fate has it, a meeting with Wolves stopper David Cervinski resulted in Young signing with Wollongong. He liked what he saw, the living style, the City, the club and now winning two NSL Grand Final championships.

Thus he decided this club offers

him satisfaction playing the sport he enjoys, as well as securing his future and happiness in general. The fans have embraced Stuart Young, accepted him as part of their own, the kids love him, a top player and good communicator with the public.

The coach could very well be looking to his top ace striker to lead the team into the new soccer season. The challenge is out with the departure of several key players to other clubs and new ones coming in.

Second Exit Going West — following Matthew Horsley, now Wolves striker Scott Chipperfield has continued the exodus of players.

It was to be expected after a successful season plus Grand Final wins that cashed-up clubs would plunder the ranks. Chipperfield is a local boy from the Bellambi Soccer nursery, who has done well, establishing himself as a recognised NSL player, respected and feared by any opposition. Naturally local fans are sad to see Chippie leave but still wish him well, looking forward to see the new

Wolves facing his new club Perth Glory next season. It is likely that a couple of more key players are enticed away by the mighty dollar. The departure of regulars does open the door for ambitious youngsters and other fringe players, eager to make a mark breaking into the first grade squad.

More Walk-outs - Speed-racer Robert Middleby and stand-by keeper Daniel Beltrame have decided to accept a huge offer from Newcastle United.

The Wolves had made a substantial offer to keep Middleby who made his national profile with the Wolves, but the club had to stay within their budget restraints. There is only that much in the kitty. Coach Ron Corry — as always to the point — uttered quietly — life goes on. Players come, players go in soccer. Midfield player Max Nicholson has however agreed to stay with Wollongong, much to the satisfaction of the coach.

Demand from Soccer Australia — Grand final attendance at Parramatta Stadium was announced at 13,402 — where were the Sydney fans?; at their own soccer games? — well short of expectations. Two out-of-town teams met in Sydney for this years NSL end-of-season highlight.

If the hierarchy of SA could have forgone some comfort and or made an effort — even morale support or assistance for the Wollongong club, the Grand-Match could have been played at WIN Stadium — even though considered not up to SA standards or demands. A crowd of well over 15,000 was guaranteed. Instead, thousands stayed home to watch the match on TV. Calculating the admission price of \$37 as charged, multiplied by 2500 or 3000 extra spectators results in \$92,500 to \$110,000 additional revenue.

Perhaps the Wolves' management would consider application to SA for more money than to receive from the Parramatta game. The Club is entitled to be compensated for loss of income due to shortcomings by Soccer Australia.

Good News, Consistent Performer Re-signed — Robert Stanton has agreed to terms for another two years — a pleasing outcome.

Robbie is the Wolves most experienced NSL campaigner, ready to reach the magic figure of 300 NSL games played. After graduating from the AIS in Canberra, his NSL career commenced 1990 with Sydney United, continued with Marconi in 1995, joining the Wolves 1997, played in 1991 U/20s World Youth Cup for his country, now in his fourth year at the Wolves.

Stanton has now won two Grand finals with the club and who knows what another two years will bring for player and club. His professional attitude is outstanding.

Support For Real National League — the Wolves support the view that the top ten cities within Australia should automatically be included if possible, with a suitable club in the NSL.

Chairman Joe Cachia believes Canberra and Brisbane need to be in the competition to represent a true national League. Soccer Australia must reconsider its decision and include the two teams for the new season, show some compassion for the sport and fans as well as the hard



Robbie Stanton: Signed a new two-year deal with the Wolves.

working club members doing everything possible to foster soccer in this country. It is never easy when the finances are short.

Illawarra Soccer — ICU Premier League round 10 Results @ Comments — 3 home wins, 2 away wins, 1 draw, 21 goals scored, no great shocks.

Bulli v Olympic 0:2. Even game at half time, then Olympic went ahead with an own goal by the home team and the second one from Andy Hay. The next opponents for both are Balgownie and Kemblawarra.

Picton v Balgownie 2:1. Confidence boost for the home team, not quite expected, goals from Stewart Lowrie, Danny Hawke, for the visitors Victor Costabile. The next opponents are Coniston and Bulli.

Northern United v Coniston 0:3, a struggle for the home side, goals scored by Anthony Guido, Vlad Srbinski, Graham Goodfellow while North had no luck. Opponents next are Cringila and Picton.

West v Cringila 3:1. The home side showing form, goals from Shane McGirr (2), Don Martinovski. Opponents next are Port Kembla and North.

Lysaght v Port Kembla 2:2. Well done by the home team, a drop of form from Port, leading 2:0 before allowing a comeback by the host. Opponents next are Shoalhaven and Western Suburbs.

Kemblawarra v Shoalhaven 5:0. Convincing performance, even though more openings for an increased score were not used, goals from Cord Tolson (2), Robbie Mastroianni, Paul Gaffney, Richard Lloyd. Opponents next are Olympic and Lysaght.

Points Table = Kemblawarra 23, Coniston 21, Port 21, Olympic 19, West 16, Balgownie 15, Cringila 13, Lysaght 11, Bulli 11, Picton 10, Shoalhaven 7, North 1. Reserve Grade leaders are Coniston 22, Youth Grade Lysaght 23 points.

ICU First Division Results — 4 home wins, 4 away wins, goals 43, some big scores. Points table of leaders = Tarrawanna 21, Warilla 21, Helensburgh 21, Kiama 20, Albion Park 19, Bellambi 19. Reserve Grade leader Tarrawanna 27, Youth Grade University 24 points.

Tarrawanna v Ruse 6:0, the competition leading side far too strong, next opponents are Fernhill and

Highlands.

Illawarra United v Dapto 2:3, close result, could have gone either way, next opponents United have the BYE, Dapto face Berkeley.

Woonona v Highbands 9:2, a feast of goals by the home team running hot lately, next to play Shellharbour City and Ruse.

University v Barbarians 3:2, result looks tight, both had opportunities, the visitors lost a player, next to play Warilla and Albion Park.

Helensburgh v Fernhill 4:1. Always hard to win points at the Burgh for any team, next to play South Coast and Tarrawanna.

Berkeley v Bellambi 0:3, the visitors playing at their best, deserved the points, next to play Dapto and Kiama.

Shellharbour City v Kiama 0:5. A clear result even though close at the break only one goal in it, the visitors superior in the second half, next to play Woonona and Bellambi, both tough.

South Coast v Warilla 1:2. Indicates a tight contest with the visitors confirming good form, next to play Helensburgh and University.

Junior Soccer - results received from Shellharbour = U/6 Roo-ball enjoyed a fine game, U/8s played well as did U/9s with good play, goals from Dean, Justin, Ben and Aaron. U/11s lost 1:3 v Thirroul. U/12s won 1:0 v Balgownie. U/13s won 3:1 v Highlands.

Junior Soccer Clinics Authorised By the Association = in school holidays 9th July to 13th July, 9 AM to 12 Noon, coaching Juniors conducted by ASF qualified coaches at Thirroul, Balgownie and Warilla, cost \$40.- per child, applications enrol with Mrs. Sheila Morris, 52 Ocean Street, Windang, phone 02 42961340, fee payable to the IJSA (Illawarra Junior Soccer Association).

Warilla Juniors run a successful Jan Collins Memorial Knock-out at Morley Park with 9 teams nominated in U/10s to U/12s age groups. Congratulations to Warillas U/10 years for reaching the re-per-charge final.

Referee Quiz - a throw-in hits the Referee and lands directly in the net for a goal. What should be decided? (Answer: no goal, restart with goal kick).



Winter Super League

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Manly inch nearer Dulwich Hill

Hajduk Wanderers 1 AC United 1

The local match up between the Hajduk Wanderers and A C United finished in a dour one-all draw at Hajduk Stadium.

The visitors led 1-0 at the break after Vincenzo Sansone scored in the 15th minute. United should have led by a greater margin following a dominant first half, with Robert Sacco, Devrim Huseyin and Alex Araujo all going close to scoring.

Hajduk stepped up a gear in the second term and leveled the score in the 79th minute, courtesy of a Tim Gledhill goal.

They were unlucky not to have hit the front when Malcolm Meilak blasted his shot well over the cross bar with only the goalkeeper to beat late in the game. The match ending in a 1-1 result.

Bankstown City Lions 0 Dulwich Hill 0

Leaders Dulwich Hill fought out a tight contest with Bankstown City Lions at Jensen Park and as a consequence both sides, which were coming off midweek losses from deferred games, allowed Manly-Warringah and Fairfield to close in on them.

Stanmore Hawks 0 Manly-Warringah Dolphins 4

Manly-Warringah Dolphins flexed a little of their footballing muscle at Arlington Oval on Sunday, easily accounting for a disappointing Stanmore Hawks.

With midfielder Danny Townsend allowed to run riot through the midfield Manly were 2-0 up at the break and

were never threatened in the second half. Goals to Griffiths and Snyder in the first half both coming from deep crosses from Townsend, were capped off by two goals from Steve Berry in the second half to give Manly a comprehensive victory.

Hurstville 1 Macarthur 2

The Macarthur Rams have got revenge from round two after defeating the Hurstville Minotaurs 2-1 when they were down 1-0 at half time.

In the first half Hurstville was able to take charge of the game through superb ball control and were first to open up their account when Macarthur was left short on the left-hand side and Evangelos Petratos gave himself some room to get a superb shot away that was too good for keeper Chad Taylor in the seventh minute.

Although in the second half the Rams looked a different side, as they were able to control the ball more successfully and used the space out wide to their advantage.

They managed to even it



Francis Awaritefe: Grabbed the opening goal for Rockdale Suns.

up when an aggressive move down the right flank saw Corey Babington swing in a cross that somehow fooled

everyone and found the back of the net without touching a single player in the 48th minute.

It was only four minutes later when striker Leigh Gunn found himself with some room down the centre of the field and fired the ball past keeper Stacy Alogdellis to give his team a 2-1 lead that was good enough to take the points.

MSC Liverpool 1 Fairfield Bulls 3

Fairfield, who faced with a muddy pitch and a struggling opponent in MSC Liverpool, proved to be the only one of six midweek sides engaged this week able to record a win.

They led from a Javier Mancino goal, got a second from Johnny Ghiso and though the home side pulled one back through Sal Zullo, from a smartly taken free kick, the Bulls gave heaps of work for opposing keeper

Adam Confoy to do throughout the game, eventually winning 3-1 with a Matt Borg bullet-like header from a fine cross.

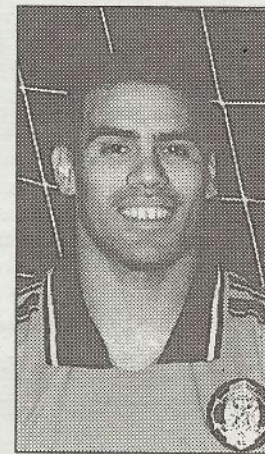
Fraser Park Jets 1 Rockdale Suns 2

A sublime 60th minute free kick from Leo Carle was the difference between the two sides come the final whistle. Rockdale City moved to 23 competition points by virtue of their 2-1 victory over an outclassed Jets team, now coached by Roberto Viera.

Adam Anderson was a constant menace to the travelling Suns and his 8th minute strike came courtesy of a determined run and shot from distance.

Francis Awaritefe scored his first goal for Rockdale City, an easy header in the

17th minute, to pull the scores level. From this point onwards, the Suns had the better of the match but was unable to kill off the contest, but held on for the win.



Johnny Ghiso: Scored for Fairfield Bulls, against MSC Liverpool.



RESULTS

(MIDWEEK RESCHEDULED)

GAMES ROUND 8)

Hajduk Wanderers	0	Fairfield Bulls	8
		(B Green 18/87m J Mancino 29/35/48m M Hoenselaars 53m J Ghiso 82m M Borg 83m)	
AC United	1	Dulwich Hill	0
(A Picken 2m)			
Stanmore Hawks	2	Bankstown City Lions	0
(E Briscoe P Kypreos)			

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE LADDER

(AFTER ROUND 13)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dulwich Hill	13	8	3	2	24	15	27
Manly Warringah	13	8	2	3	35	20	26
Fairfield Bulls	13	7	4	2	46	18	25
Rockdale City Suns	13	7	2	4	29	21	23
Bankstown City Lions	13	6	4	3	24	11	22
Macarthur Rams	13	5	3	5	19	17	18
AC United	13	4	4	5	14	18	16
H'ville City Minotaurs	12	4	2	6	12	18	14
Hajduk Wanderers	13	3	3	7	15	31	12
Fraser Park	12	3	2	7	22	27	11
Stanmore Hawks	12	3	2	7	11	23	11
MSC Liverpool	12	1	3	8	14	46	6

For further information see: www.soccernsw.com.au



Winter Super League

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ROUND 14

SUNDAY 17th JUNE

Rockdale City Suns v Bankstown City Lions

Rockdale Ilinden Sports Ground

First Grade: 3.00pm

Dulwich Hill v Fairfield Bulls

Arlington Oval

First Grade: 3.00pm

Macarthur Rams v Fraser Park Jets

Lynwood Park

First Grade: 3.00pm

Manly Warringah Dolphins v Hurstville City Minotaurs

Cromer Park

First Grade: 3.00pm

AC United v Stanmore Hawks

Abruzzi Oval

First Grade: 3.00pm

Hajduk Wanderers v MSC Liverpool

Hajduk Stadium

First Grade: 3.00pm

Catch up with all the latest news on the Winter Super League and other NSW Soccer news on our website:

www.soccernsw.com.au

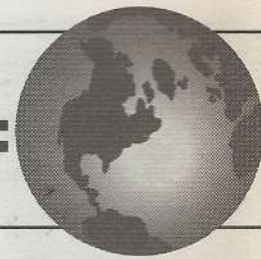
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Steve Berry: Scored twice for Manly Warringah.



FIFA/Confederations Cup

Vieira Crowns France Champs!

Arsenal's Patrick Vieira continued his recent transformation from midfield enforcer to goalscorer on Sunday, grabbing the winner in France's 1-0 win over Japan in the Confederations Cup final.

"I think my confidence is really high at the moment. The spirit amongst the players has been fantastic all through the tournament," said Vieira, who scored the winner with a looping header in the 29th minute at Yokohama's International Stadium.

Vieira, who had failed to score in 39 international appearances before

the Confederations Cup, scored the first and last of France's 12 goals in the competition, opening his account in the 5-0 thrashing of co-hosts South Korea on May 30.

In Sunday's final, Vieira was the best player on the pitch in a one-sided game that underlined France's position at the top of the FIFA world rankings.

"We are winners and we are professional. We want to win every tournament. The new players have real quality and the competition for places now is fantastic," said Vieira.

Vieira said France had not missed

a beat during the Confederations Cup, despite missing key players such as Zinedine Zidane, Thierry Henry and Emmanuel Petit.

"The atmosphere has been great and we have a wonderful balance of experienced players and new young players coming in," he said.

Another English-based player, Chelsea defender Frank Leboeuf, agreed that the current French side has the strength in depth that many of their predecessors lacked.

"We have proved that we can still win big tournaments without two or three star players, like Zidane for example. That has given us even more confidence," he said.

"We have the culture of winning. We are always tuned in to our jobs and we always play with heart and passion. We want to prove we deserve FIFA's number one ranking," said Leboeuf.



Patrick Vieira (left) of France challenges Leomar of Brazil during their semifinal match of the FIFA Confederations Cup at Suwon World Cup Stadium.

FRANCE REPEAT W-CUP CONQUEST OF BRAZIL

FRANCE	2
BRAZIL	1

World and European champions France beat Brazil 2-1 in a re-run of the 1998 World Cup final to meet hosts Japan in the final of the Confederations Cup.

Brazil played their best football of the tournament against France but, in the first meeting between the top two

teams in the world since the Paris final, they were always second best.

Brazil did not have any players from their starting line-up in the 1998 final. France had five of the team that won 3-0. A spectacular 18-metre volley from Pires put France ahead after seven minutes, the highlight of a blistering opening half by the Arsenal forward.

He had almost grabbed the opener a minute earlier with a 35-metre effort that Brazilian goalkeeper Dida did well to tip wide.

Youri Djorkaeff's overhit corner was headed back by Patrick Vieira. Waiting on the edge of the area, Pires hit the ball first time to give Dida diving to his left no chance.

France were stunned by a typical Brazilian set-piece in the 30th minute. Christian Karembeu conceded a free kick 25 metres out, getting a yellow card in the process, and Ramon stepped up to curl the ball over the wall and past Ulrich Rame.

Having had a narrow escape France hit within five minutes, cap-

tain Marcel Desailly restoring the lead from another set piece in the 54th minute.

"Of course any time is a good time to get a goal," Leboeuf said. "But to score at that time probably killed off Brazil."

Brazilian coach Emerson Leao said the French deserved their victory. "France were the better team and deserved to win," he said. "But it was a game that could have gone either way."



French players celebrating with the Confederations Cup trophy after their 1-0 triumph over Japan.

Socceroos' dump mighty Brazil after Nakata's knockout — kick

AUSTRALIA	1
BRAZIL	0

Australia beat Brazil to take third place at the 2001 Confederations Cup, in Seoul.

A goal to defender Shaun Murphy - his third for Australia - in the 83rd minute, sealed the victory, the first time that Australia has both scored a goal against, and a victory over, the former World Champion, at the senior level, in six attempts.

A few minutes later, Josip Skoko again tried the shot which netted him a goal against Mexico, his effort this time just inches past the post, while Zane continued to make life uncomfortable for the keeper, almost forcing an error from a back-pass midway through the first forty five, and then skimming the crossbar with a shot later in the half.

Brazil then gained the upperhand in the second half, bringing out the best in the Australian defence with two clearances off the line.

The deadlock was broken in the 83rd minute by Australia however, Lazaridis taking an acute angled free-kick from the touchline, his curling ball finding an

unmarked Murphy, whose on-target header sealed the game.

Brazil almost found the equaliser in the second minute of extra time when Magno Alves drew Schwarzer out of his goal-mouth and then looped the ball over his head, but the ball dropped short, eventually bouncing over the cross-bar.

AUSTRALIA	0
JAPAN	1

The Socceroos lost the semi final of the Confederations Cup, going down to host nation Japan 1-0 in Yokohama.

Played in monsoonal conditions from the kick-off, the driving rain made the surface extremely slippery, with both teams having trouble adjusting to the pace and bounce of

the ball. AS Roma midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata again proved his worth to Japan by scoring the winner in the co-hosts' 1-0 win.

Nakata, wearing the captain's armband for the first time, gave Japan the lead two minutes before halftime with a 25-metre free-kick that slid through the Australian wall and eluded defender Kevin Muscat's outstretched leg.

The 56th minute saw Japanese striker Takayuki

Suzuki sent from the field after an off-the-ball incident with Tony Popovic, while four minutes later Australia made a double substitution, as the Socceroos sought the equaliser.

In the end, the single goal for Japan was enough, with Australia's misery compounded by Craig Moore's send-off late in the game, for a second yellow-card offence.

Socceroos' coach, Frank Farina blamed the loss

squarely on his team's profligacy.

"Pretty much that we dominated the match in many areas, but we failed to take our chances. First half, they had basically one opportunity and took it, while we had some good opportunities and didn't take them."

"We made a silly foul to give away the free-kick just outside the box, and from there it was another mistake with the wall."

AUSTRALIA LINE-UP: Mark Schwarzer (gk), Stan Lazaridis, Tony Popovic, Shaun Murphy, Tony Vidmar (captain), Scott Chipperfield, Josip Skoko (Marco Bresciano 71'), Steve Horvat, Steve Corica (Mile Sterjovski 59'), David Zdrilic, Clayton Zane.



Archie Thompson (right) in action against Japan.



\$22m price tag on Elber

Any club interested in buying Bayern Munich's Brazilian striker Elber would have to pay 50 million marks (\$22 million) team president Franz Beckenbauer said in an interview last week.

The interview, carried in Kicker soccer magazine, marked a shift in Bayern's position.

Previously the German and European champions said Elber, who has a contract

through to 2004, was not for sale at any price. Beckenbauer also suggested a willingness to trade another of his strikers, but added: "No one has asked us about it. Anyway, we are not letting anyone go for less than 30 million marks."

The main subjects of speculation are Carsten Jancker and Paulo Sergio, while Beckenbauer also ruled out the possible sale of youngster Roque Santa Cruz.



Northern Ireland international, Peter Kennedy (left) being escorted by a Czech police office in Prague.

DETAINED IRISH PLAYERS FREED

Four Northern Ireland players and their goal-keeping coach flew home last week Friday, after being detained then released over an incident in a night-club in which one man was injured.

But there was confusion over whether they faced charges over any alleged offence.

The CTK news agency reported that all five were released at 8:30 pm local time (1830 GMT) but quoted police spokesman Jan Holub as saying four of the men had been charged with a misdemeanour.

The website of the leading daily Mlada Fronta Dnes (www.idnes.cz) reported that if found guilty, the four charged could face up to one year in prison or fines.

However, on various TV teletext services in Britain, David Bowen, general secretary of the Irish Football Association, was quoted as saying all charges had been dropped and the men would be on the first flight home on Friday morning.

Earlier, a Czech police statement said a group of five English-speaking men injured a 23-year-old male staff member of the bar and then fled in a taxi to a Prague hotel.

This went against a previous statement from a police spokesman who had said a group of five foreign soccer

players had been celebrating or drinking when a flowerpot flew out of their group at a waitress, injuring her.

Irish FA spokesman John Quinn had confirmed that those detained were captain Michael Hughes, strikers David Healy and Glenn Ferguson, midfielder Peter Kennedy and goalkeeping coach Tommy Wright.

"It is now a matter for the police and the British embassy and we look forward to their early return to the UK.

BRAZIL FA BOSS IN TAX EVASION SCAM

A Congressional commission of inquiry investigating Brazilian soccer has accused Ricardo Teixeira, president of the country's football confederation, of tax evasion, mismanagement and illegally pocketing his organisation's money.

The commission, set up to probe suspected irregularities and maladministration in the country's crisis-hit national sport, also recommended that criminal charges ranging from traf-



Teixeira: Indicted in tax and embezzlement malpractices.

ficking of minors to falsifying documents be levelled against 31 other officials and

agents.

It went on to accuse sportswear giants Nike of having too much influence in the national team, which they sponsor.

The commission in the lower house of Congress began its work in September following a public outcry over the decline of Brazilian football.

Once the world's top footballing nation, Brazil has been hit by plummeting attendances, a mass exodus of players to foreign clubs, chaotic organisation and enor-

mous financial difficulties.

Teixeira, president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), was the main target of an 800-page report produced by the commission's general secretary Silvio Torres and released publicly on Thursday.

The report, which still has to be approved and finalised by the commission's 48 members next week, accused Teixeira of 13 crimes, mostly involving tax evasion and misuse of funds. The findings will be passed to public

prosecutors if the report is approved next week.

It listed other cases in which it said Teixeira's tax declarations were incompatible with transactions investigated by the commission.

The report also accused Teixeira of paying himself a salary — which it said leaped from Real 126,900 (\$52,875) in 1998 to Real 418,500 (\$174,375) in 2000 — even though CBF statutes prohibit him and other directors from being paid.

Other directors also received money, it said.

23 English, Greek fans arrested

Nine English fans were among 23 people arrested before, during and after the Greece-England World Cup qualifier in Athens, police have said.

"They were arrested for causing damage and in one case bodily harm and will be taken to a public prosecutor for possible charges," a police official said.

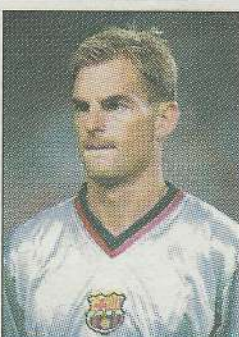
Greece were defeated 2-0 in the group nine match. Although FIFA said it would investigate possible incidents against David

Beckham, who complained fans threw coins, bottles and lighters at him, there was no crowd trouble during the game.

Police said they had detained about 70 English fans outside the stadium before the match because they were apparently intoxicated but most were released shortly before the end of the game.

Those arrested, who were mostly Greeks, will probably face charges for destroying shops, an urban train and attacking a shop owner.

DE BOER FORESEES THE END AT BARCELONA



De Boer: Fears for his continued stay at Barcelona.

Barcelona defender Frank de Boer, who is awaiting a disciplinary decision from UEFA

after testing positive for the banned substance nandrolone, has said he fears for his future at the Catalan club.

"Now I am starting to worry more than before," the Dutch captain was quoted as saying in the Spanish media on last week.

"I am beginning to think that maybe I will be playing my last game when we face Valladolid this weekend."

The 31-year-old defender's contract with Barcelona is due to expire at the end of next season and players who have tested positive in similar cases have received bans of

between six months and two years.

His Dutch international colleague Edgar Davids, who also tested positive for nandrolone in early March, has been given an open-ended ban by both FIFA and Italian authorities.

Both players have repeatedly protested their innocence in the face of the doping charges.

De Boer said he would wait until June 14, which is when the UEFA disciplinary committee is due to discuss the case, before deciding what action he would take.

"I think I will be in for a

long-drawn out fight. A number of investigators are searching for the source of the nandrolone, but the doctors have told me that it is very difficult to locate it and they can see little hope of finding an answer."

"The situation is getting more and more difficult to accept for me because I know I am innocent, but I don't want to get too depressed because I still believe I have three or four years of football left in me.

"If I did get a ban of say two years I wouldn't know what to do. I haven't even dared think about it," he said.



RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

With only one round of the Serie A left, the transfer market and its associated 'rumours' is alive and well. So, like every off season, the player movements will grab all the headlines.

Christian Vieri is once again rumoured to be on the move. He is currently into his second year of a five-year contract at Inter, but the player who has played for eight clubs in the last nine years, is set to return to Juventus.

According to Inter President, Massimo Moratti, Vieri isn't going anywhere. The star striker is staying put. However, there are a few indicators that might say otherwise.

Vieri himself said earlier in the year that Inter needed to make the Champions League for him to stay. And, secondly, he has changed clubs so regularly and broken so many contracts in recent years, that it is hard to believe that this year will be any different.

The deal is rumoured to be a swap-deal with David Trezeguet. In other words, the Frenchman leaves Juventus for Inter and Vieri goes in the opposite direction. It would also be a fair assumption to assume that a large sum of money will go with Trezeguet to Inter to help compensate.

Juventus with Vieri and Alessandro Del Piero could be a formidable team. So where does that leave Filippo Inzaghi? The Italian striker is yet to finalise a deal with Juventus and his tenure at the club could be linked to the Vieri transfer.

Surely Inzaghi doesn't want to be a 'Vincenzo Montella'. The brilliant Italian striker has really had to prove his worth at Roma but now Montella is eager to leave the capital.

Roma have Gabriel Batistuta and Marco Delvecchio and Montella has filled in for both at various times. He has still managed to score some of Roma's best goals for the season and, incredibly, has still kept his place in the national team.

However, it seems that finally he has had enough and it looks almost certain that Montella will leave Roma.

Meanwhile back at Inter another coach has 'bitten the dust'. Marco Tardelli, the former Italian midfielder and former coach of Italy's Under 21 and Olympic sides, is set to leave the club.

He joined Inter in Round 2 this season after Marcello Lippi left and he had a two-year contract. However, after only one season, he too has been forced out and surely he must be kicking himself for leaving such a secure job with the Italian Federation after the Sydney Olympics last September.

Inter in the last ten years have seen a number of coaches come and go; the 'honour role' reads as follows: Orrico, Suarez, Bagnoli, Marini, Bianchi, Hodgson, Castellini (twice), Simoni, Lucescu, Lippi and now Tardelli. Not bad - 12 coaches in a decade!

Tardelli's replacement will be Hector Cuper of Valencia despite all the denials from President Moratti. The Cuper deal was finalised ages ago and it was one of the worst kept secrets at Inter in a long time.

He is the fourth foreign coach in the last decade at Inter after Suarez, Hodgson and Lucescu. One can only wish Cuper all the best at Inter because at a club like that he will surely need it.

◆◆◆◆◆
The four new clubs in the Serie A for next season will be Torino, Piacenza, Venezia and Chievo Verona.

The real fairytale is Chievo and as mentioned in this column two weeks ago, this will be their first appearance in the Serie A.

They started off some sixteen years as a local club from an area of Verona called Chievo. They have worked their way through the ranks and after seven years in the Serie B, they have finally managed a spot in Serie A. It is the kind of stuff that dreams are made of.

Torino have oscillated between the Serie A and B for a few years now, but it is good to see them back. It also gives us one more derby to look forward to - Juventus v Torino - which always has some degree of spice.

Venezia and Piacenza are certainly no strangers to the Serie A and it was two years ago that they were there. Piacenza won the hearts of many when, for a number of years, they refused to buy foreign players.

I remember being at the Olympic Stadium in Rome in January 1999 when they held on for a gallant 2-2 draw against a Francesco Totti-inspired Roma. Those days in the Piacenza defence was an evergreen, 40-something year old, Pietro Vierchowod.

Welcome back Piacenza.

ITALIAN SERIE A



Juventus forward David Trezeguet (right) scores as Vicenza defender Tomas Stijepan looks on during their match at Vicenza's Menti Stadium.

ATALANTA 0 UDINESE 1

By securing their 11th league win of the season, Udinese assured themselves of remaining in Italy's top flight.

Roberto Muzzi's deflected shot, his eighth strike of the season in the 31st minute, ensured the victory.

With the loss, Atalanta have been eliminated from a UEFA Cup berth for next season.

BARI 1 INTER MILAN 2

Alvaro Recoba scored twice as Inter Milan assured themselves of a UEFA Cup spot for next season with their fifth away win of the campaign.

The Uruguayan international opened the scoring with a 35th minute penalty but Daniel Andersson levelled the score from the spot just before halftime.

Recoba then blasted a shot from 30 yards in the 67th minute to complete the scoring and give Inter Milan their 13th win of the season.

BOLOGNA 2 LECCE 2

Relegation threatened Lecce managed to salvage a draw at Bologna and earned a precious point in their efforts to stay in Italy's top flight.

Davor Vugrinec gave Lecce the lead with a 34th minute penalty before Argentine international Julio Cruz equalised in the 52nd minute.

A brilliant free kick by defender William Viali from 30 yards put Lecce back in front but Bologna's Cruz scored his second of the

game with an 83rd minute penalty.

Lecce's Klas Inghesson had a penalty saved by Gianluca Pagliuca three minutes from time to preserve the draw.

LAZIO 3 FIORENTINA 0

Leading league scorer L'Hernan Crespo scored his 25th goal of the season as Lazio kept their title hopes alive.

Florentina defender Alessandro Pierini gave Lazio the lead with an own goal in the 34th minute. Crespo connected with a cross from Claudio Lopez to double the score just before halftime. Defender Paolo Negro rounded out the scoring with a header of his own in the 55th minute.

PARMA 1 VERONA 2

Verona earned their first away win of the season to lift their hopes of escaping relegation.

A penalty by Massimo Oddo in the 32nd minute gave the visitors the lead. Brazilian forward Marcio Amoroso took advantage of a defensive error to equalise for Parma in the 68th minute.

Five minutes from time a Michele Cossato header gave Verona their timely away win.

AC MILAN 1 BRESCIA 1

AC Milan drew their 13th match of the season but still managed to assure themselves of a UEFA Cup spot

Atalanta	0	Udinese	1
Bari	1	Inter Milan	2
Bologna	2	Lecce	2
Lazio	3	Fiorentina	0
AC Milan	1	Brescia	1
Napoli	2	AS Roma	2
Parma	1	Verona	2
Perugia	1	Reggina	1
Vicenza	0	Juventus	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. AS Roma	33	21	9	3	65	32	72
2. Juventus	33	20	10	3	59	26	70
3. Lazio	33	21	6	6	64	34	69
4. Parma	33	16	8	9	50	23	56
5. AC Milan	33	12	13	8	55	44	49
6. Inter Milan	33	13	9	11	45	46	48
7. Atalanta	33	10	14	9	37	32	44
8. Fiorentina	33	10	13	10	52	50	43
9. Bologna	33	11	10	12	48	51	43
10. Perugia	33	10	12	11	48	51	42
11. Brescia	33	9	14	10	41	40	41
12. Udinese	33	11	5	17	47	56	38
13. Lecce	33	7	13	13	38	53	34
14. Reggina	33	9	9	17	30	48	34
15. Verona	33	9	7	17	38	58	34
16. Vicenza	33	8	9	16	34	49	33
17. Napoli	33	7	12	14	33	49	33
18. Bari	33	5	5	23	30	65	20

for next season.

A 30-yard blast from Spanish international Jose Mari gave Milan the lead in the 68th minute.

Midfielder Jonathan Bachini equalised two minutes later to give Brescia their 14th draw of the season.

NAPOLI 2 AS ROMA 2

Relegation threatened Napoli seized the lead in the 37th minute through Nicola Amoroso's left-footed shot from the edge of the

box, but Gabriel Batistuta equalised five minutes later with his 19th strike of the season.

AS Roma captain Francesco Totti gave leaders Roma the lead with a beautiful volley from inside the box seven minutes after the break.

Just as Roma were in sight of victory, a free kick from midfielder Fabio Pecchia eight minutes from time gave Napoli an important point in their fight to avoid relegation.

PERUGIA 1 REGGINA 1

Andrea Zanchetta scored from over 30 yards out to give Reggina the lead in the 31st minute and hopes of avoiding relegation.

Captain Marco Materazzi levelled the score from the spot with his 12th goal of the season.

VICENZA 0 JUVENTUS 3

Second-placed Juventus sustained their title chances with their 10th away win in 20 league victories this season.

Alessandro Del Piero put Juve ahead with a header in the 36th minute.

French international David Trezeguet volleyed home in the 40th minute and added another six minutes after the break to complete the rout.



Roma soccer fans clash with Italian police during the match against Napoli at San Paolo stadium in Naples. The match ended in a 2-2 draw denying Roma the chance to win the Serie A one week to the end of the season.



WORLD

ENGLAND ... ENGLAND ...



England's David Beckham (left) celebrates the goal of his teammate Paul Scholes (right) during the World Cup European qualifier between Greece and England in Athens.

Eriksson plots Germany's fall following Greek conquest

England's World Cup qualification campaign is securely back on course after a 2-0 victory in Greece put Sven Goran Eriksson's side in a strong position to secure second spot in group nine.

There is still the chance on topping the group by beating Germany but even if England do win in Munich in September they will need to improve their goal difference to knock the Germans off the perch they have occupied since beating England at Wembley last October.

Germany, who won 2-0 in Albania last week, top the group with 16 points from six games. England are second on 10 from five with Greece third on six from six.

A scrambled Paul Scholes goal after 64 minutes and a superb late free kick by David Beckham were a fair reward for England, who gave a mature performance in the Olympic Stadium.

"This was a very difficult game. To win in Greece is always very difficult," said Eriksson, the first England manager to win his first five games in charge.

"We did well tonight, even in the first half we created some good situations and the Greek team cre-

ated very little, even if they did have the ball.

"We had a lot of patience, waited, waited, until the opportunities came.

"You can't chase the ball for 90 minutes, you can do it now and again during the game but it's not possible for the duration.

"In the second half we played excellent (football) and we deserved to win the game.

"Now we look forward to Germany where anything can happen. Of course we can win it but we can also lose it. Germany is a great football country and a great team so we'll wait and see.

Beckham's free kick three minutes from time — his third in four internationals — capped another excellent performance from the captain but the Manchester United

midfielder said it was a group effort.

"It was a team performance more than anything," he said.

"If you look, right through from the back four... Rio (Ferdinand) and Martin (Keown) were tremendous.

Eriksson, however, was happy to pick out his captain for special praise after he braced a hail of plastic bottles while waiting to take a second half corner.

"It was proper behaviour," Eriksson said. "He behaved like a captain, playing well and scoring a goal."

A FA spokesman confirmed that they will be asking Greek counterparts to investigate the missile throwing and reporting the matter to FIFA.

GROUP 9 STANDINGS

Greece	0	England	2
Albania	0	Germany	2
Germany	P W D L F A Pts		
England	6 5 1 0 13 5 16		
Greece	5 3 1 1 7 3 10		
Finland	6 2 0 4 4 10 6		
Albania	5 1 2 2 5 6 5		
	6 1 0 5 5 10 3		

Next Game: (September 1)
Germany v England



Bryan Robson leaves Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium after 'mutual' agreement to resign.

Robson's Boro reign ends

Bryan Robson's seven-year reign as Middlesbrough manager is over. Robson and his assistant Viv Anderson have left The Riverside "by mutual consent".

No replacement has been revealed, though Manchester United assistant boss Steve McClaren remains the hot favourite for the post.

Chairman Steve Gibson confirmed the decision at a press conference.

He said: "We both concluded that Bryan leaving the club was the best option for the club.

"There were a lot of hard decisions to be made and they were made for lots of different reasons but we have mutually agreed that he is leaving. Bryan has been a giant figure at this club and he leaves a true legacy.

"But Bryan believed that anyone else coming in would not want him around and he is right. Football is like that."

McClaren is expected to be named Robson's replacement by the end of the week.

"Steve is away in the US on holi-

day at the moment and nothing is concluded but we hope to offer some news at the weekend".

Terry Venables' position at the club is still unclear, but Gibson said that coach Gordon McQueen is "still part of the club's plans".

Robson's position has been under increasing pressure ever since Venables was brought in early last season to assist the manager the pair combined to stave off the threat of relegation, but when Gibson failed to persuade Venables to stay on in a full-time capacity, the pressure was back on Robson.



England's Steven Gerrard (left) and Greece's Giorgos Karagounis challenge for the ball during their match.

UEFA CUP BLOW FOR NEWCASTLE

Newcastle United will not play in next season's UEFA Cup after missing out in the UEFA Fair Play draw.

Bobby Robson's side qualified for the draw by finishing third in the English premier league's Fair Play table.

Winners Ipswich and second-placed Manchester United were already guaranteed places in Europe.

Newcastle were joined by ten other teams in the draw last week, including Scottish premier league

side Dunfermline, with just two entering the preliminary stage of the UEFA Cup.

However, the two places went to Finnish team MyPa-47 and an unnamed Slovakian side.

The news will come as a blow to manager Robson, who was hoping the lure of European competition would help him attract players to St James' Park.

The Fair Play assessment is based on the behaviour of a club's players, officials and supporters throughout the season.

Solksjaer signs new Man Utd deal

Ole Gunnar Solksjaer has handed Manchester United a major boost by agreeing to a new two-year deal.

The Norwegian hitman, who was elevated to hero status amongst United fans after notching the winning goal during the 1999 Champions League final, has been the subject of perpetual speculation linking him with a move away from the Premiership champions, although he has always indicated that he is happy at United.

"I have become very fond of this club and the fans, and I look forward to new challenges and trophies with what I see as the world's greatest club," he told icons.com.

"It is clear that a new contract is a vote of confidence and a compliment after a good season. I feel that I have developed as a player this season, and I can't see any reason why it shouldn't continue.



FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until June 20)



1	France	796	68=	Iraq	506	136	Rwanda	294
2	Brazil	794	70	Kuwait	503	137	Tahiti	284
3	Argentina	763	71	Canada	502	138	Solomon Isl.	281
4	Italy	748	72=	Bosnia-Herz	499	139	Tajikistan	275
5	Portugal	732	72=	Georgia	499	140	Ethiopia	273
6	Spain	724	74	Burkina Faso	497	141	Yemen	272
7	Czech Republic	722	75	Bolivia	496	142	Luxemburg	257
8	Netherlands	715	76	Senegal	493	143=	Andorra	255
9	Germany	711	77	Congo DR	489	143=	Liechtenstein	255
10	Paraguay	703	78	Liberia	485	145	Bangladesh	253
11	Yugoslavia	689	79	Albania	483	146	Tanzania	251
12	Romania	683	80	Togo	479	147=	Korea DPR	248
13	Mexico	680	81=	Cuba	478	147=	Maldives	248
14	England	673	81=	Macedonia FYR	478	149	Palestine	245
15	United States	666	83	Algeria	474	150	St Kitts & Nevis	242
16	Colombia	665	84	Indonesia	471	151	Antigua & Barbuda	240
17	Norway	663	85=	Guinea	469	152	Botswana	239
18	Russia	652	85=	Qatar	469	153	Surinam	236
19	Croatia	650	87	Namibia	458	154	Benin	232
20	Denmark	645	88=	Belarus	457	155	Sri Lanka	224
21	Sweden	643	88=	Haiti	457	156	Nepal	220
22	South Africa	634	90	Congo	454	157	Dominica	219
23	Poland	627	91	Syria	449	158	Bermuda	214
24	Scotland	624	92	Lithuania	448	159	Cape Verde Isl.	208
25	Slovakia	623	93	El Salvador	447	160=	Cayman Islands	207
26	Morocco	622	94	Oman	445	160=	Gambia	207
27	Ireland Republic	617	95	Armenia	444	162	Dominican Rep.	206
28	Saudi Arabia	615	96	Latvia	443	163	British Virgin Is.	202
29	Turkey	614	97	New Zealand	442	164	Kyrgyzstan	201
30	Belgium	612	98	Vietnam SR	437	165	San Marino	194
31	Tunisia	611	99	Gabon	436	166	Eritrea	192
32	Chile	607	100	Jordan	432	167	Chinese Taipei	184
33	Uruguay	601	101	N. Ireland	423	168	Mauritania	181
34	Austria	599	102	Moldova	421	169	Cambodia	171
35=	Egypt	595	103	Barbados	417	170	Chad	169
35=	Trinidad & Tobago	595	104	Kenya	416	171	Laos	168
37	Cameroon	592	105	Mali	412	172	Samoa	167
38	Slovenia	584	106	Kazakhstan	407	173	Vanuatu	159
39	Korea Rep.	580	107	Singapore	406	174	Cook Islands	155
40	Ukraine	573	108=	Malaysia	404	175	Guyana	153
41=	Cote d' Ivoire	571	108=	Uganda	404	176	Tonga	148
41=	Iran	571	110	Wales	398	177	Philippines	130
43	Bulgaria	570	111	Lebanon	396	178	Nether. Antilles	129
44	Japan	568	112	Venezuela	393	179	Cent. African Rep.	124
45	Ecuador	567	113	Libya	374	180	Guinea-Bissau	121
46	Jamaica	566	114	Turkmenistan	373	181	Macao	115
47	Israel	564	115	Mozambique	371	182	Bahamas	114
48=	Greece	558	116	India	370	183	Sao T. Principe	113
48=	Honduras	558	117	Azerbaijan	365	184=	Aruba	101
50	Nigeria	555	118	Bahrain	359	184=	Niger	101
51	Peru	553	119=	Madagascar	354	186	Mongolia	94
52	Angola	552	119=	Malawi	354	187	Belize	91
53	Hungary	551	121	Mauritius	352	188	Eq. Guine	88
54	Costa Rica	548	122	Fiji	349	189	Seychelles	81
55	Iceland	546	123	Faroe Islands	347	190	Brunei Dar.	80
56	Zambia	543	124	Panama	343	191	Djibouti	78
57	Finland	530	125	Sudan	338	192	Pakistan	71
58	Switzerland	527	126	St Vincent/		193	Nicaragua	69
59	Guatemala	526		Grenadines	331	194	Anguilla	65
60	Uzbekistan	525	127	St Lucia	327	195	PNG	63
61	Ghana	521	128	Hong Kong	319	196	Somalia	57
62	Thailand	517	129	Swaziland	316	197	Puerto Rico	51
63	China PR	515	130	Malta	315	198	US Virgin Islands	48
64	UAE	514	131	Sierra Leone	313	199	Guam	28
65=	Cyprus	510	132	Burundi	302	200	Turks & Caicos Is	22
65=	Estonia	510	133	Grenada	299	201	American Samoa	15
65=	Zimbabwe	510	134	Lesotho	297	202	Bhutan	14
68=	AUSTRALIA	506	135	Myanmar	296	203	Montserrat	11

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.

Transfer News ... Transfer News ...



Didier Deschamps

Deschamps to coach Monaco

Didier Deschamps, France's most successful player, announced on Saturday he was ending his playing career to coach Monaco.

Deschamps will be in the principal position today to sign a four-year contract, the French first division team announced.

The 32-year-old former French captain, his country's most capped player, said his lacklustre season with Valencia had led him to the decision to quit playing. "I always said that the day when I can no longer be able to go to training, I would stop," the midfielder said on his website.

"That day has come. It's pointless continuing for the sake of it. I just had a very bad year during which I was injured often. I could feel little by little that my body was suffering, that I was reaching the limit," he added.

Deschamps said he would have given up even if he had not been approached by Monaco and added Valencia officials had accepted his decision.

Current Monaco coach Claude Puel was expected to be dismissed after his team's poor showing this season.

Madrid, Man Utd chase Thuram



Lilian Thuram

Parma have revealed that Manchester United are in competition with Real Madrid for the signing of their France defender Lilian Thuram. Parma official Enrico Fedele said he had received bids from both clubs for the 29-year-old.

"There are offers from foreign clubs," he told Roman radio, "not just

Madrid but other clubs like Manchester United."

Fedele added that the Serie A outfit not join Arsenal and United in the chase for Roma's Japanese midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata. "Nakata is a great player, but he isn't our No. 1 target or anything."

We already have Johan Micoud to play in that position."

Bayern Munich poach Pizarro

Peru international striker Claudio Pizarro is leaving Werder Bremen to join European Champions League winners Bayern Munich for \$6.50 million, Werder said last week.

"It was a race right up to the wire with several Spanish clubs," Werder Bremen sports director Klaus Allofs told SID sports news agency.

Real Madrid and Barcelona were also interested in

the 22-year-old Pizarro, who joined Werder from Peru's Allianza Lima in 1999 and scored 19 Bundesliga last season.



Claudio Pizarro (right)

Riise reunites with Tigana at Fulham



John Arne Riise

John Arne Riise has agreed to join premier league club Fulham, the Monaco player has said.

But the 20-year-old Norwegian also said that he would consider an offer from Liverpool if the UEFA Cup champions decided to make firm their reported interest.

Riise claimed he had settled personal terms with Fulham manager Jean Tigana, with a medical to be held at Craven Cottage in just over a week's time.

Fulham were unavailable to

confirm whether the transfer was close to completion. Media reports have suggested that the fee for Riise would be around four million pounds.

Riise told icons.com: "I have agreed personal terms with Fulham after meeting with their manager and my agents in Tigana's house in

Marseille.

"I am very satisfied with the terms, even though there are a few things that need to be sorted out. The medical will be in just over a week. The test will be done in London and that shouldn't be a problem. My agent Einar Baardsen is almost certain that the deal will go

through now."

Tigana, the former France international, took Riise to Monaco when he was manager of the French first division club.

"Tigana showed his faith in me and I was already a regular (in the first team) when I was aged 17 and 18," said Riise.

Valencia replace Cuper with Benitez

Valencia are set to name Tenerife manager Rafael Benitez as Internazionale-bound Hector Cuper's replacement for next season.

"We were looking for a man with a will to win titles and Benitez fits the bill," said general secretary Javier Subirats.

Spanish radio station Onda Cero reported that the 41-year-old former Extremadura boss, who is due to put pen to paper in the next few days, will be handed a two-year contract worth nearly £1 million.

The agreement is to be officially made public on June 18, when Tenerife will know whether they have secured promotion to the Primera Subirats justified the choice. "We

wanted a Spaniard who knows the market well. Besides, big names aren't always the best option. Jorge Valdano and Carlos Parreira didn't do that well here," Subirats added.

France's 1998 World Cup winning captain Didier Deschamps also backed the decision. "So what if he's new to division one," he said.

"Real Madrid's Vicente del Bosque and Marcello Lippi were when they started careers at big clubs."

Defender Miroslav Djukic welcomed the appointment. "He is a young coach, with new and fresh ideas and he likes to play attacking football," he said.



2002 W-Cup Qualifiers ... 2002 W-Cup Qualifiers ...



Swedish striker, Henrik Larsson (left) celebrating one of his four goals against Moldova with a teammate.

Portugal, Sweden, Yugoslavia unleash 18 — goal blitz

Portugal thrashed a weak Cyprus side 6-0, while a resurgent Sweden repeated the same scoreline against Moldova in the highlights of a busy midweek of World Cup qualifying action. Yugoslavia also hit half-a-dozen against perennial whipping boys, Faroe Island.

Henrik Larsson scored four goals, three of them penalties, as Sweden crushed 10-man Moldova 6-0. The win put Sweden top of the group, two points clear of Turkey, who could only draw 3-3 at home against Macedonia.

Swedish coach Lars Lagerback was pleased with the resounding victory but underlined that Sweden had not yet secured a berth in next year's World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea.

Portugal now have 15 points from seven games, behind group leaders Ireland, who have 18 points from eight games, and ahead of the Netherlands in third place on 14.

Manager Antonio Oliveira was clearly pleased that Portugal have put themselves in a position where they can go top on goal difference if they win their game in hand.

"I think the result leaves no room for doubts. We could have scored more but the result is entirely fair," Oliveira told reporters.

The absence of Real Madrid midfielder Luis Figo after a booking against Ireland the previous week, made itself felt in a disappointing first-half perfor-

mance from Portugal.

The home side launched numerous attacks, but the final pass went amiss time and time again.

Cyprus missed their best chance in the 21st minute when Michalis Constantinou hit the post when faced with an open goal.

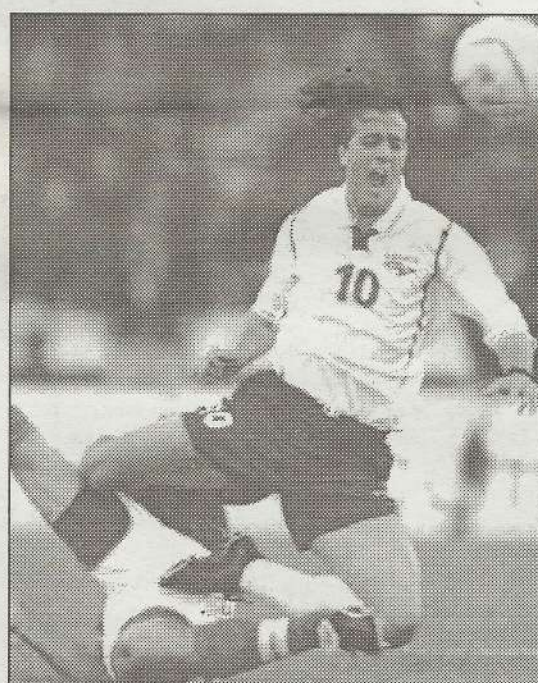
NEXT GAMES

(Wednesday, August 15)

Yugoslavia v Faroe Islands
Estonia v Cyprus

(Saturday, September 1)

Belarus v Ukraine	Slovenia v Russia
Wales v Armenia	Faroe Islands v L'bourg
Poland v Norway	Andorra v Portugal
Scotland v Croatia	Ireland v Netherlands
Bosnia v Israel	Iceland v Czech Rep.
Spain v Austria	Malta v Bulgaria
Georgia v Hungary	Denmark v N. Ireland
Lithuania v Italy	Macedonia v Sweden
Germany v England	Moldova v Azerbaijan
Albania v Finland	Slovakia v Turkey
Switzerland v Yugoslavia	



Zlatko Zahovic (right) of Slovenia falls over Yvan Quentin of Switzerland (left) during their World Cup 2002 European group one qualifier.

ALL THE RESULTS

Switzerland 0	Slovenia 1
Luxembourg 1	Russia 2
Faroe Islands 0	Yugoslavia 6
Estonia 0	Ireland 2
Portugal 6	Cyprus 0
Czech Rep. 3	N. Ireland 1
Denmark 2	Malta 1
Iceland 1	Bulgaria 1
Turkey 3	Macedonia 3
Sweden 6	Moldova 0
Azerbaijan 2	Slovakia 0
Norway 1	Belarus 1
Armenia 1	Poland 1
Ukraine 1	Wales 1
Latvia 0	Croatia 1
San Marino 1	Belgium 4
Israel 1	Spain 1
Lithuania 1	Romania 2
Hungary 4	Georgia 1
Albania 0	Germany 2
Greece 0	England 2

HOW THEY STAND

GROUP 1								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Russia	7	5	2	0	10	3	17	
Slovenia	7	3	4	0	11	7	13	
Switzerland	7	3	2	2	14	6	11	
Yugoslavia	6	2	3	1	11	4	9	
Faroe Islands	6	1	1	4	5	15	4	
Luxembourg	7	0	0	7	2	18	0	

GROUP 2								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Ireland	8	5	3	0	18	5	18	
Netherlands	7	4	2	1	21	8	14	
Portugal	6	3	3	0	12	5	12	
Cyprus	6	2	1	3	10	16	7	
Estonia	7	2	1	4	8	14	7	
Andorra	8	0	0	8	4	25	0	

GROUP 3								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Denmark	7	4	3	0	13	5	15	
Czech Rep.	7	4	2	1	10	3	14	
Bulgaria	7	4	2	1	12	7	14	
Iceland	7	3	1	3	11	10	10	
N. Ireland	7	1	1	5	6	11	4	
Malta	7	0	1	6	2	18	1	

GROUP 4								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Sweden	7	5	2	0	13	1	17	
Turkey	7	4	3	0	13	6	15	
Slovakia	7	3	2	2	7	6	11	
Macedonia	7	1	3	3	9	10	6	
Azerbaijan	7	1	1	5	3	11	4	
Moldova	7	0	3	4	2	13	3	

GROUP 5								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Poland	7	5	2	0	16	6	17	
Belarus	7	3	3	1	8	7	12	
Ukraine	7	2	4	1	7	7	10	
Wales	7	0	5	2	7	9	5	
Norway	7	0	4	3	5	8	4	
Armenia	7	0	4	3	6	12	4	

GROUP 6								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Belgium	6	4	2	0	23	5	14	
Croatia	5	3	2	0	10	2	11	
Scotland	5	3	2	0	10	3	11	
Latvia	7	1	1	5	4	14	4	
San Marino	7	0	1	6	3	26	1	

GROUP 7								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Spain	6	4	2	0	15	4	14	
Austria	5	3	2	0	7	3	11	
Israel	6	3	1	2	10	6	10	
Bosnia	5	1	1	3	7	10	4	
Liechtenstein	6	0	0	6	0	16	0	

GROUP 8								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Italy	6	5	1	0	15	3	16	
Romania	6	4	0	2	7	6	12	
Hungary	5	2	2	1	13	7	8	
Georgia	5	1	0	4	6	10	3	
Lithuania	6	0	1	5	3	18	1	



Turkey's Hakan Sukur (right), fights for the ball with Goran Stavrevski of Macedonia during their World Cup European Qualifying match.



Michael Ballack (right) of Germany slips past Albania's goalkeeper Foto Strakosha (left) to score the second goal for Germany during their World Cup qualifier in Tirana.

**Scott Chipperfield, scores the
'Johnny Warren Medal' ... Again.**



AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY